The Tree and the Vine

"Gilleland Branches from Texas Roots"

Patricia Gilleland Young
&
L. Richard Scroggins

Illustrations by Robert L. Williams

with articles contributed by:
Margaret Holmes Johnson & Marshall E. Kuykendall

To Daniel and Precilla ~

who by their faith, courage
and indomitable spirit
endowed a rich and proud legacy
to be guarded and cherished
by their descendants.

TEXAS
DANIEL AND PRECILLA GILLELAND
AMONG THE FIRST ANGLO AMERICAN SETTLERS TO
COME TO TEXAS WITH COLONIZER STEPHEN F. AUSTIN,
DANIEL (b.1795) AND PRECILLA BOATWRIGHT (b.1803) GILLELAND
WERE MEMBERS OF AUSTIN'S OLD THREE HUNDRED COLONY.
THE COUPLE AND THEIR INFANT DAUGHTER, ALONG WITH
RELATIVES IN THE KUYKENDALL AND BOATWRIGHT FAMILIES,
LEFT THEIR HOMES IN ARKANSAS TERRITORY AND ARRIVED
IN TEXAS IN DECEMBER 1821.
MAKING HIS LIVING AS A FARMER, DANIEL GILLELAND
RECEIVED LAND GRANTS IN PRESENT COLORADO AND
AUSTIN COUNTIES. DURING THE 1830s AND 1840s THE
FAMILY MOVED FREQUENTLY, FARMING IN WHARTON, FAYETTE,
WASHINGTON, HARRISON, AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES. BY
1841 THEY HAD SETTLED IN PRESENT MILAM COUNTY.
GILLELAND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE GROWTH OF
THE METHODIST CHURCH IN TEXAS ASSISTING SEVERAL
CHILDREN THREE OF WHOM DIED IN CHILDHOOD.
CONFEDERATE ARMY
WAS ESTABLISHED
PLACE OF
WHOM DIED IN
AS PIONEERS

Preface

Interest in preserving this history of the Gilleland family was first kindled in the fall of 1987, when Gilleland descendants, gathered in Milam County, Texas to dedicate the rediscovered tombstone of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland, came to understand the significance of the role played by their ancestors in shaping the history of Texas. ***"The Tree and the Vine: Gilleland Branches from Texas Roots,"*** *represents an effort of collaborative and uninterrupted research since that time.*

The narrative begins with the birth of our earliest documented ancestor, William Gilleland (1770 - 1800), and concludes with the death of Dianna (Moore) Gilleland (1805 - 1895), the last surviving member of that first generation of Texas pioneers. The family histories which follow encompass five generations of the Gilleland and related families, spanning the years from 1770 to the turn of the century. Because of an abundance of historical records pertaining to Anglo-American settlement of Texas, the years of the Republic, statehood, the Civil War and the rebuilding that followed, the decision was made to limit the scope of this volume to the period of the 19th Century.

This effort is not intended to be an exhaustive account of the Gilleland family history, since research will no doubt uncover new information in years to come. It is our sincere hope that the publication of this first edition will encourage Gilleland descendants to seek out the threads of our proud past, so that together we can weave them into the rich fabric of our Texas pioneer heritage.

Patricia Gilleland Young
L. Richard Scroggins

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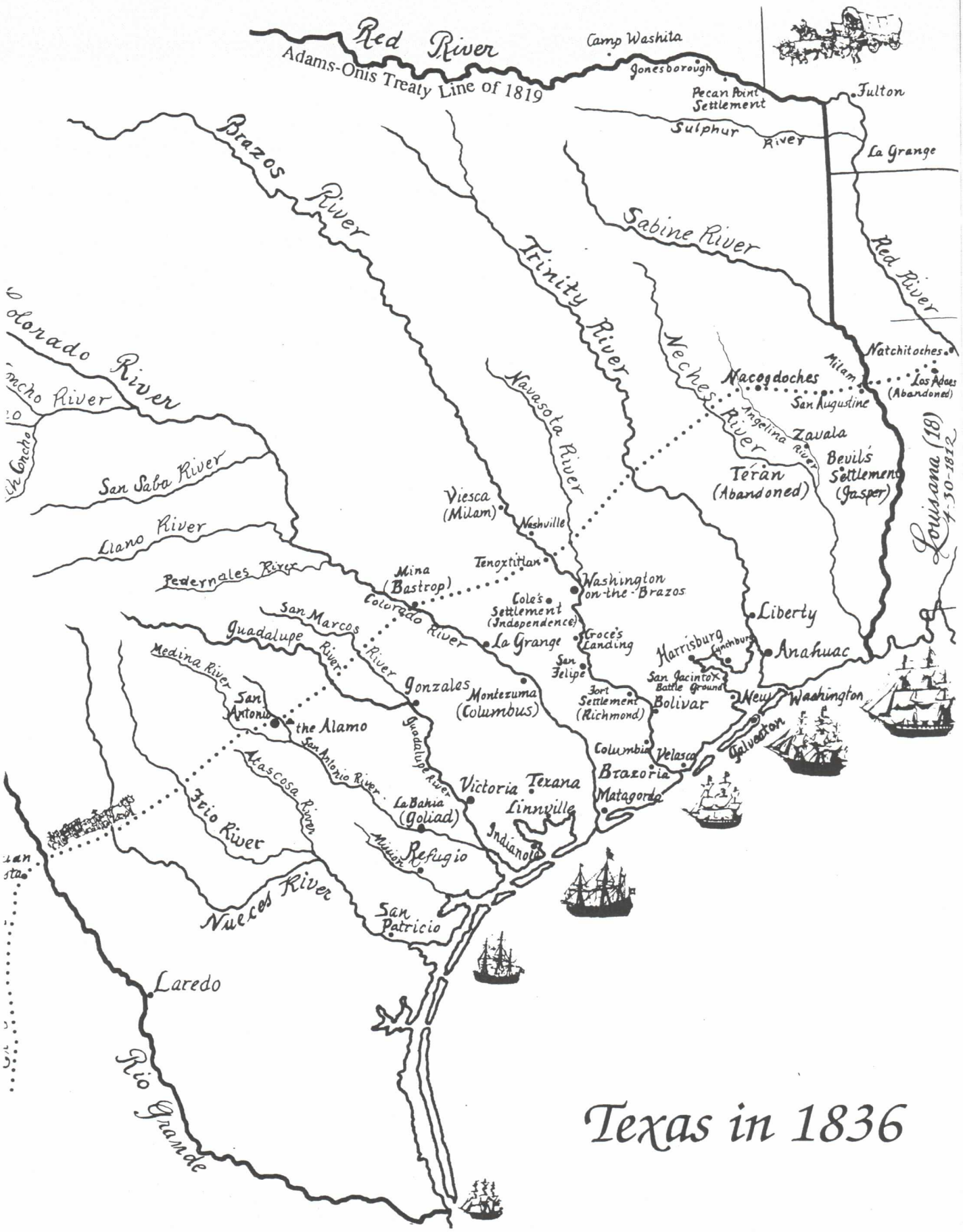

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Part I

In
Memory
Born
Died
In
Born
Died

Introduction

There are particular moments in our lives which stand apart from others, engraved in our memory by the power of their impact upon us. My own such moment came on a warm July evening, in the soft, gray light of dusk, as I stood before an old tombstone, lost in a thicket of trees and a tangle of brush, near the banks of the slow-moving Gabriel River. We had gone there, my father, Larry, my sister, Joan, my sister-in-law, Rhonda, and I, looking for an old family graveyard, not knowing if we would find anything at all. After searching for some time, I found myself walking along the river bank in hope of finding some fragment of stone, some piece of iron fence, that would shed light on the fate of the Gilleland family cemetery.

From some distance away I heard shouts, but could not distinguish what was being shouted. I began to walk faster, turning toward the place where the voices came from, and as I walked, almost running then, I felt something inside of me that to this day I cannot really describe. "We found it! We found it!," my father shouted, and as I raced to join him, I asked out loud, "Is there anything left?" We walked through branches and thick brush to where my sister stood. And there, in the gathering shade of a warm summer night, I came to a place where I could touch my own past.

The old double tombstone leaned back against a gnarled tree, held by a thick vine which sprang up from the ground in front of the stone and climbed up across its face, before entwining with the upper branches of the tree. Chiseled into the stone were the words "In Memory Of" and the names and dates that marked the lives of my great-great-great grandparents, Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland. They came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin, in the fall of 1821, to carve a home out of the wilderness, and in the course of that adventure left future generations with a priceless legacy of courage and faith on the frontier. In the growing shadows of that summer night I stood before that stone and traced with my fingers those names and dates and was overcome, for a moment, with the power of the past and how it bonds to the present.

For these were my people; their blood flows in me and in some part of my soul their spirits still dwell. They struggled and fought for the very soil that I stood upon and in the end, they closed their eyes and were laid to rest beneath that soil and another generation took up the watch upon the land.

There are those among us who believe that Providence, and Providence alone, caused the tree to grow up behind that gravestone and the vine to sprout in front of it, growing stronger with each season, until Nature came to clasp the stone in a hard and fast embrace. And when, not long ago, the vine was torn apart by hands unseen, and the stone pulled away from the

shelter of the tree, there was a symbol yet to tell of love's power. For there, like a testament worn smooth in the bark, was the shape of a heart, uniting forever a man named Daniel and a woman named Precilla.

This is their story and the story of their people, told for the first time by two of their descendants. Though it is a pale shadow of the real story, played out over half a century on the rugged Texas frontier, it is a beginning. In the searching and the telling we have come to know a small part of an enduring story and we are the richer for it. Five years have come and gone since we discovered a piece of Texas history, preserved, as it was, by Nature's hands, cradled between the tree and the vine. And it seems that now, like never before, does the power of our own past bond so completely with the meaning of the present.

L. Richard Scroggins
Caldwell, July 1991

Chapter I

"From Virginia to Arkansas"

1770 ~ 1821

"...They came from Kentucky and Tennessee by way of Missouri and Arkansas. Their fathers had followed Boone and Harrod over the Wilderness Road to Harrodsburg and Bryant's Station or pioneered with Sevier along the waters of the Holston or French Broad. Tall tales of adventure, of Indian warfare and torture, they had heard about the hearths of cabins while the winter winds howled outside....They were not schooled in books. A cross oftimes testified their signatures....For them the sun told the hours of the day and the seasons calendared the passing of the year."

Rex Strickland

Miller County, Arkansas Territory:
The Frontier That Men Forgot

Among the old courthouse records of Prince Edward County, Virginia, is a document which attests to the marriage bond made between William Gilleland and Nancy Johnson, on September 26, 1792. [1] Located some miles southeast of Lynchburg, Prince Edward County is bounded on the north by the Appomattox River, on the east by Amelia and Nottaway Counties, on the south by Charlotte and Lunenburg Counties, and on the west by the Piedmont Mountains.

William Gilleland may have been the son of James and Susannah (Young) Gilleland, who married about the year 1767 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and later moved to Rockingham County, Virginia. [2] According to the "Declaration of Shepherd Gilleland," dated 1832, there were thirteen children born to James and Susannah Gilleland, among them a William, born on October 7, 1770 or 1771, depending on which source is referred to.

During the Revolutionary War this James Gilleland, then a member of the Peaked Mountain Church, at Cross Keys, Rockingham County, Virginia, and living in either Mill Creek or William's Run Valley, served first in Captain Thomas Hewitt's Company, then under Captain George Houston. He was involved in McIntosh's expedition against the Ohio River Indians and fought at Yorktown, in 1781, in the battle which saw the surrender of British troops under Lord Cornwallis and marked the end of the War for Independence. James Gilleland received an honorable discharge and died, according to Shepherd Gilleland's declaration, in the fall of 1810, in Botetourt County, Virginia. His widow, Susannah, said to have been born in 1750, died in Augusta County, Virginia, June 18, 1842, age 92. [3]

While there are no known records which document a relationship between the William Gilleland who married Nancy Johnson, and James and Susannah Gilleland, there is a strong possibility that they were, in fact, his parents. Existing records show members of the Gilleland family to have been living in that area of Appalachia between the Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Mountains, primarily in Rockingham, Augusta, Botetourt, and Amherst Counties, during the 1780's and 1790's.

We know very, very little about the early years of William and Nancy Gilleland's marriage. Their first child, Robert, was born about 1793, in Virginia. On June 9, 1795, a second son, Daniel, was born, also in the Commonwealth of Virginia. [4] Sometime after Daniel's birth, William and Nancy left Virginia and settled in Tennessee.

Tennessee, organized as the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio in 1790, was the first territory admitted to the Union, achieving statehood in 1796, with John Sevier serving as its first governor. It is reasonable to assume that William Gilleland and family would have traveled overland from Virginia, following a route that led southwest through the Cumberland Gap, then westward to the

Cumberland River. More than likely the pioneers would have completed the journey by flatboat down the Cumberland River, arriving in the area of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee.

On December 4, 1797, a daughter, Sarah, was born, followed by a third son, James, born on September 8, 1798. [5] Both Sarah and James were born in Tennessee, probably in the Mero District, and would spend their earliest years there.

William Gilleland died in the late spring or early summer of 1800. His Last Will and Testament was dated the twenty-ninth of April and executed during the July session of court, Davidson County, Tennessee. [6] It is probable that William contracted a fever or suffered some injury from which he died some two months later. This will, recorded August 23, 1800, and the inventory of his estate which accompanied it, tell us most of what we know about William Gilleland. Witnessed by Elisha Rice, William Hamilton and an N. Perkins, this instrument directs that William's Negro man, Pompey, along with a stud horse, an old mare and her two colts, be sold for "the best price that can be had." William further directs that the money arising from this sale is to be used to purchase land in some part of the Mero District, the deed or deeds to be taken in the names of his three sons: Robert Gilleland, Daniel Gilleland, and James Gilleland. His widow, Nancy, is to have one-third of these lands for and during her natural life. After her death her portion would go to the youngest son, James. Should Nancy choose not to live upon the land, or choose to remarry, then James would be entitled to it upon reaching the age of 21.

Nancy also received the lease of the land and plantation where the family was living at William's death, along with all stock of cattle, hogs, and sheep. William bequeathed to his wife all the household furniture and one young mare named Pleasure, and her colt. In addition, his Negro girl, Nancy, became the property of his widow until such time as their daughter, Sarah Gilleland, reached the age of 21 or married, when she would inherit the slave as her separate property. It was stipulated, however, that should his executrix, Nancy, think it advantageous to send the slave to Mississippi Territory to be sold, then she had full power to do so. [7]

The inventory of William Gilleland's estate, delivered into court during the January session, 1801, gives us a glimpse into the lives of a pioneer family at the turn of the 19th Century. Among other bits of information, it tells us that the Negro girl, Nancy, was eleven years old, that the family owned three pewter dishes, eight pewter tablespoons, one iron kettle, two spinning wheels, one small trunk, two sitting chairs, one man's saddle, one woman's saddle and one child's saddle, one poplar table, one pair men's shoes, a glass bowl, a Bible, and one spelling book. [8] These last two items are significant because they seem to indicate that William could read and that his children had some limited education.

An inventory of the sale of William Gilleland's property, delivered into court by his widow, Nancy, during the January session, 1801, shows that Pompey, the Negro servant, was sold to one Seth Lewis for $380. The stud horse and filly were sold to John Caffrey for $160 and $67, respectively. The mare was purchased by John Graves for $66 and Nancy, herself, acquired one filly, paying $70. The sale of William's "chattel," as it was termed, remitted a profit of $713.00. [9]

During the next two years there are no records pertaining to Nancy Gilleland and her children. On September 15, 1802, Nancy (Johnson) Gilleland and Thomas Williams were issued a license to marry in Davidson County, Tennessee. [10] Thomas Williams, who was then about 30 years old, was a newcomer to the Nashville area, where he had settled on land lying along the Cumberland River. [11]

In October of 1802, less than a month after Nancy married Thomas Williams, the District Court of Davidson County appointed Robert Sample and John Graves as guardians to the orphan children of William Gilleland. Court records show that these two gentlemen, friends of the late William Gilleland, felt there was a danger of Nancy and Thomas Williams using the money left Nancy, for other purposes. In their petition to the court Sample and Graves state that "in September, 1802, the said Nancy intermarried with Thomas Williams, a person lately arrived in this county, without any fixed habitation and apparently destitute of any kind of property." The complainants further charged that at that time, "there was evidence that Nancy Williams and her new husband intended to leave Tennessee in an effort to prevent Sample and Graves from acting as guardians for the Gilleland children." Robert, the eldest of William and Nancy's four children, was 9 years old in October, 1802; Daniel, 7, Sarah, 5, and James, at 4 years old, the youngest. It was reported that Nancy and Thomas Williams were "making preparations to remove down the river Cumberland." [12]

At the May term of the Davidson County Court, in 1803, Thomas and Nancy Williams were not present to answer the complaint of Samples and Graves. The sheriffs of Davidson and Montgomery Counties attempted, but could not locate them. The court ordered that an item be published in the *Tennessee Gazette* commanding the said defendant, Thomas Williams, to appear in court on the 3rd Monday of May, 1804. Robert Sample and John Graves were ordered to collect the money due the estate and follow the orders in William Gilleland's will, reporting the results of their efforts to the court. [13] Thomas and Nancy Williams failed to appear in court during the May term, 1804. They had indeed removed down the river Cumberland, settling in Arkansas, and placing themselves beyond the jurisdiction of the Tennessee court.

Coinciding with the departure of Thomas and Nancy Williams and her four children from Tennessee was an event of perhaps the greatest significance in the brief history of the United States. In early May, 1803, France, desperate for hard cash after the enormous cost of the Napoleonic Wars, agreed to sell all that territory claimed by her west of the Mississippi River, consisting of some 800,000 square miles, to the United States for the sum of fifteen million dollars. Thomas Jefferson, then President, through his envoy in Paris, James Monroe, negotiated what became known as the Louisiana Purchase and the United States Senate ratified it into law as a treaty between the U.S. and France.

Later Arkansas land records indicate that the Thomas Williams' family had settled in Arkansas prior to 1803. Their trip from Nashville would have taken them overland to the Chickasaw Bluffs (Memphis), then down the Mississippi River to the place where it meets the Arkansas River. From there they would have poled upriver to the site of the Cadron settlements, not far from present-day Little Rock.

On April 2, 1807, nearly five years after Nancy's remarriage, John Caffrey and Howell Tatum of Davidson County, Tennessee, conveyed to Robert, Daniel, and James Gilleland, minor children of William Gilleland, deceased, through Robert Sample and John Graves, their guardians, 878 acres in Robertson County, Tennessee, in consideration for $878.00, or one dollar per acre. [14] By this time (1807) Nancy Williams had at least two children by Thomas Williams: Benjamin, date of birth unknown, and Thomas Johnson Williams, born November 11, 1807, in the District of Arkansas, Territory of Louisiana. [15] Robert Gilleland would have been 14 by this time, Daniel, 12, Sarah, 10, and James, 9.

Nancy Williams, by Deed of Gift, conveyed all of her property to her son, Robert Gilleland, on the tenth of June, 1811. This instrument was witnessed by David Yarbrough of the Crystal Hill Settlement, and Betsey Green of the Cadron Settlement, as well as John Bain. [16] Three years later, on July 11, 1814, a John Williams, also of the Arkansas District, obtained a judgment against Thomas Williams for a debt owed of $400.00, plus an amount of $114.07 for damages. The court ordered that Thomas Williams' claim at Crystal Hill be put up for sale to satisfy this debt. Alexander S. Walker purchased the claim on September 5, 1814. This John Williams, who may or may not have been related to Thomas, had been accused of horse theft by the Cherokees the previous year (1813), as well as attempting to stir up the Indians against the settlers along the Arkansas River. [17] Nancy's Deed of Gift to Robert may have been made in anticipation of this judgment.

During the time the Gilleland-Williams family was living in the Arkansas Territory, Sarah, then age 17, married Robert H. Kuykendall, in 1814. Kuykendall, a hunter and Indian trader, had settled in Arkansas, along with members of his large family, who had come from Tennessee and Kentucky. [18]

Two years later, on March 26, 1816, Thomas Williams sold "his only settlement and improvement claim, situated near a Cypress Bayou believed to be of the waters of the White River or River Mississippi, to Sylvanous Phillips." Williams based his settlement on residence before 1803. He was living at Crystal Hill, "on the banks of the Arkansas River, about 25 miles below the Cadron." David Yarbrough, who had witnessed Nancy Williams' Deed of Gift in 1811, stated that his own pre-emption claim was "bounded on the northwest by lands settled by Thomas Williams." [19] This area of the Cadron Settlement was northwest of present-day Little Rock, on the bluffs of the Arkansas River.

In his Reminiscence, a remarkable document in itself, Thomas Johnson Williams, son of Nancy and Thomas Williams, and half brother to Robert, Daniel, Sarah, and James, states: "my father moved to the Washita (sic) Mountains when I was very young. We lived there three years; our nearest neighbors were twenty-five and thirty miles." [20] Based upon the younger Williams' account, the family lived in the Ouachita Mountain area of Arkansas between the years 1814 and 1816, when Thomas Williams sold his settlement claim to Sylvanous Phillips. From there they would move to the Red River Settlements, along what is now the Texas-Oklahoma border, in 1817. Returning to Reminiscence:

> We then moved to Red River, settled at the mouth of what is now called Williams Creek. My parents had six children, three boys and three girls. My youngest brother and sister died

> while we were there of whooping cough, as we could not get them any medical aid. In the year 1817 -- this was the first year we lived there--, my father and two oldest brothers, Daniel and Jem, and a man named Gabe Martin killed sixty-three bears, the summer following sixty-five buffaloes. [21]

From those few records pertaining to the origins of the Red River Settlements which survive, it is clear that the Gilleland-Williams families were among its earliest settlers. The Gilleland children were all grown by this time (1817). Because we have no further record of Robert Gilleland, we believe he remained in Arkansas and did not accompany his mother, brothers, and sister to the Red River. Thomas and Nancy Williams were living, during that time, on Buzzard Creek, northeast of the settlement of Jonesboro and it is presumed that Daniel and James, both of whom were unmarried, lived there also.

On June 29th, 1817, a party of settlers was attacked by Osage Indians while hunting buffalo along the Kiamichi River where it meets the Red River. One of these settlers was killed and another wounded. A petition was drawn up, addressed to the Secretary of State, seeking protection from the U.S. government against Indian attack. Dated August 4, 1817, this petition bears the names of the earliest inhabitants of the Red River Settlements, including Thomas Williams. [22]

In his Reminiscence, T. J. Williams continues:

> ... In 1818 we moved up Red River three hundred miles above the Settlement, on the west side of the River and camped and commenced to build a large cedar house, when the U.S. troops came up and burned us out, said they thought we were on the wrong land; they set fire to eight places on our place; then we moved back to Jonesburg near the same settlement we moved from. In 1819 we moved up to the head of Blue River; we moved our cattle with us; we went up there to catch buffalo calves; did not have much success; moved back to Jonesburg the same year. [23]

The trouble with U.S. troops that Williams refers to stemmed from an ongoing dispute between the settlers and the government over lands then in the public domain. From the standpoint of the frontier families they had moved onto these unsurveyed lands and had begun to plant corn and other crops in the hope of gaining ownership through their efforts. But, in the eyes of the federal government, the inhabitants of the Red River area, west of the Kiamichi, were nothing more than squatters, illegally occupying lands ceded to the Choctaw Nation from the United States by treaty. The episode recounted by Williams occurred in May of 1819, when Major William Bradford, acting on orders from General Andrew Jackson, Commander of the Southern Division of the United States Army, left Ft. Smith, Arkansas to remove all settlers then living on lands west of the Kiamichi River. Captain Combs, from Natchitoches, charged with evicting the squatters, moved in, setting cabins and fields ablaze and forcing the displaced families to cross the River to the settlements of Jonesboro and Pecan Point. [24]

The Gilleland and Williams families would not easily forget this experience with the government and persisted in their attempts to gain this land, or some measure of compensation, for some years to come.

The year 1819 is noteworthy for the signing of the Adams-Oñis Treaty, a peace settlement negotiated by John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State, with Spain, and defining the northern boundary of the Territory of Texas as the Red River. It was also a year of economic depression, and the so-called Panic of 1819 compelled many people to move westward in search of cheap land and some sort of future for themselves and their families. These settlers, living in the vicinity of Pecan Point and Jonesboro, were poised to move to still another frontier. Caught between the dictates of the United States government and the rights of the dispossessed Indian tribes, they found themselves occupying territory claimed by Spain. Their presence was not welcome, their status uncertain, and their claims to land denied. One can well imagine the despair and frustration of these men, women, and children, the Gillelands and Williams among them, during these difficult times. The hardships inherent in frontier existence were made worse by the trying conditions of a displaced pioneer people.

The year 1819 saw an event in the life of the Gilleland family, however, that gave some hint of the promise to come. On February 3, 1819, Daniel Gilleland, then 23 years of age, took as his bride Precilla Boatwright, age 15. The marriage ceremony was performed, most likely, in Jonesboro, a settlement located on the south side of the Red River. The bride was the daughter of Thomas and Amy Boatwright, pioneers from Illinois Territory, where Precilla was born on June 20, 1803. [25]

When Daniel Gilleland and Precilla Boatwright exchanged vows that cold winter day in Jonesboro, it was for them the beginning of a journey and in the course of that journey they would find what some might call their destiny. From that day forward their lives would be forever bound to that destiny. And that destiny was Texas.

Chapter II

"Gone to Texas"

1821 ~ 1825

"In 1821 we started to Texas; had no wagon, depended on pack horses. Mother and my sisters and sick brother Benjamin rode the three pack horses. Father, John Ingram and myself walked and drove the hogs and cattle. Father led one of the horses and helped to drive the cows."

from *Reminiscence of T.J. Williams*

Texas in 1820 was a sparsely populated territory of immense size, stretching from the Sabine River on the east to somewhere beyond the Rio Grande to the west and from the Red River on the north to the Gulf of Mexico. It was territory belonging to Spain, although the efforts of that country to colonize Texas had met with little success. The missions established along the frontier had been decimated by Indian attacks since the mid-18th Century. Chief among those Indians who proved to be the scourge of Spanish settlement of Texas were the Comanches, a nomadic and warlike tribe, ranging across the central and northern parts of the territory. Despite two centuries of possession, there was little to show for Spain's claim save the sleepy towns of San Antonio and Nacogdoches, linked by the King's Highway, or Camino Real.

Along the Gulf Coast the only inhabitants were the Karankawa Indians and a group of privateers headquartered on Galveston Island, under the leadership of Jean Laffite. From his base on the island Laffite and his band seized the cargos of Spanish ships sailing in the Gulf. Ordered to leave the island by forces of the United States government, he and his men abandoned Galveston in 1821 and sailed into obscurity.

Mexico, in 1820, was in the midst of her own struggle for independence from Spain, a struggle which would continue during the early 1820's. Events in Europe and Mexico City came to a climax while Texas remained a virtual wilderness, with millions of acres of land, eyed hungrily by settlers along the Red River and Sabine.

In the fall of 1820 Moses Austin of Missouri rode alone into San Antonio de Bexar, with a dream of colonizing Texas, and in the process, restoring his own fortune, which had evaporated with the Panic of 1819. Unable to state his case to the Spanish governor, Austin found himself under orders to leave the Province of Bexar and Spanish territory altogether. As Austin was walking across the Plaza, preparing to ride out of San Antonio, he encountered an acquaintance who proved to be a valuable go-between for the empresario. This man, Felipe Enrique de Neri, Baron de Bastrop, was one of the most interesting players in Texas history, a refugee from the Napoleonic Wars and now, after a brief sojourn in Spanish Louisiana, a loyal subject of the Spanish crown, living in a small room in San Antonio. Having much experience with establishing settlements in Louisiana, Bastrop saw in Austin's plan a prospect for success. Only by allowing Anglo-American settlement along her frontier could New Spain hope to hold on to her vast territory and rid it of the constant threat of Indian hostilities.

In January of 1821 Moses Austin received permission to settle 300 families on a land grant in Texas. Leaving San Antonio for Missouri, Austin suffered a series of disasters, culminating in a deterioration of

his already poor health. He reached Missouri and before he died, urged his son, Stephen Fuller Austin, to fulfill his dream of colonizing Texas. [1]

Stephen Austin was then living at Long Prairie, Arkansas Territory, where he had been appointed circuit judge for the territory. In this capacity he was acquainted with many of the Red River settlers, among them the Gillelands, Williams, Boatwrights, and Kuykendalls. The house of John Hall, in the Gilleland Settlement at Clear Creek Prairie, Miller County, was chosen as the place where all courts of justice should be held until such time as a more permanent seat of justice could be found. [2] When he began to recruit families for the proposed colonization of Texas, Austin no doubt had these families on his mind.

Once acknowledged as his father's successor, Austin began preparing for an organized settlement of his colony, governed by Spanish law. Among his first tasks was to explore and survey the territory in order to choose the best site for settlement. Accompanying him on this trip was a small group of settlers. While there is no evidence to support it, it is "conceivable" that members of the Gilleland and Kuykendall families were included in this exploration party. Since they were known to Austin and since they did play key roles in settling the colony a few months later, it is entirely possible.

Precilla Gilleland gave birth to a son on February 7, 1820, most likely at Jonesboro Settlement, Red River. He was given the name Lewis, which was a Boatwright name, Precilla having a brother named Lewis. [3] This child, her first born, was a year old in the spring of 1821. On June 2, 1821, Daniel, and his brother, James, returned to Tennessee where they sold the land that had been purchased for them by their guardians, Sample and Graves, some fourteen years earlier, in 1807. James Gilleland was, according to this deed, a resident of Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory. The brothers sold the property, consisting of 878 acres, to one Robert Pennington, for the sum of $400.00, or less than half the purchase price of 1807. [4] The name of Robert Gilleland, eldest child of William and Nancy (Johnson) Gilleland, is notably absent from this document, and there is no further record of him, leading some to believe that he might have been dead by that time or settled somewhere else. No doubt the Gilleland brothers sold this property in anticipation of the move to Texas, in order to purchase goods and supplies for the journey.

The late summer and early fall of 1821 were occupied with the various tasks of preparing to move to Texas. Livestock, including cattle and hogs, had to be tended to, blankets and cookware packed, and good horses acquired for the journey. The families would take just those things necessary for the trip, waiting to acquire or make other, less essential things, like furniture, bedding and farm implements, once they arrived.

By all accounts the Gillelands, and related families, left the Red River Settlements early in October of 1821. Their route would have taken them almost due south, along Trammel's Trace, across the Sulphur River, then the Sabine, before reaching Nacogdoches, the formal point of entry into Spanish Texas. Austin had selected the area between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers as the site for his colony, since these were among the most fertile lands, with plentiful timber and a good climate. It must be remembered, however,

that the formal agreement between Austin and the Mexican government was not signed until some two years later, owing to turmoil in Mexico during that country's move toward independence. Those settlers, like the Gillelands, Williams, Boatwrights, and Kuykendalls, who started on the road to Texas, formed the vanguard of what would later be known as Austin's Old Three Hundred. They were pioneers in the truest sense. "Gone to Texas." Those three words held more significance during those days than perhaps any others, for they signaled events which would, in fact, alter the history of Texas and the United States. There could be no turning back.

T. J. Williams, in his Reminiscence, tells of how the journey down that road began:

> In 1821 we started to Texas; had no wagon, depended on pack horses. Mother and my sisters and sick brother, Benjamin, rode the three pack horses. Father, John Ingram and myself walked and drove the hogs and cattle. Father led one of the horses and helped to drive the cows.
>
> One day John and I went too fast, got so far ahead of the rest, they camped before they got to us. We had to camp alone, and had nothing to eat with us, but an old crazy man came to us and had a duck that he had scared a hawk away from; he gave us half, we broiled it and had a nice supper. [5]

It should be noted that the John Ingram Williams refers to was an orphan boy who attached himself to the family, following them to Texas. Since he was a minor at the time, he had to wait a few years until he was entitled to land in Austin's colony. Ingram later fought at the Battle of San Jacinto, and died in 1896, age 88. [6]

Travel was slow going and difficult on the road to Texas and Precilla Gilleland was pregnant with her second child. On October 11, 1821, James Gilleland, then 23, took Dianna Moore, age 16, as his wife. [7] No record survives to indicate where the marriage took place, whether in Arkansas Territory or Texas. Then, on October 15th, sorrow befell Daniel and Precilla Gilleland, when little Lewis, their first born child, died. [8] He was one year and eight months old. They buried the baby beside the trail and continued the journey to Nacogdoches.

Sometime after October 16, 1821, this group of settlers reached Nacogdoches, which in those days was a village consisting of about five houses and a church, with a population not exceeding 40 persons. [9] A manuscript in the Bexar Archives, entitled, "Nacogdoches - October 16, 1821 - A memorandi of the heads of families, with their respective names, who have passed this place since the above date," is dated January 8, 1822, and lists these names:

No. 5 - Robert Kirkendall [sic]
No. 6 - Abner Kirkendall [sic]
No. 7 - Joseph Kirkendall [sic]
No. 8 - Thomas Boatwright
No. 9 - Friend Boatwright
No. 26 - Daniel Gilleland
No. 39 - Thomas Williams [10]

The oath of allegiance the settlers had to swear to, reads as follows:

> In the name of God, Amen. In the Town of Nacogdoches before me, Don José Marìa Guadiana, appeared Daniel Gilleland, and took a solemn oath of fidelity to our Sovereign, and to reside forever in his Royal Dominions; and to manifest this more fully, put his right hand upon the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be a faithful vassal of His Most Catholic Majesty, to act in obedience to all laws of Spain and the Indies, henceforth adjuring all other allegiance to any other Prince or Potentate, and to hold no correspondence with any other foreign power without permission from a lawful magistrate, and to inform against such as may do so, or use seditious language unbecoming a good subject of Spain. [11]

On October 17, 1821, Precilla Gilleland gave birth to a daughter, two days after burying her little son. [12] Where there had been despair there was now hope, in the image of a baby girl named Sarah.

From Nacogdoches the group of settlers would have traveled down the La Bahia Road, crossing first over the Angelina and Neches Rivers. A few weeks later, probably in mid-to-late November, they found themselves at the Trinity River. It is not hard to visualize what such a trip entailed for the colonists. Moving slowly through a virtual wilderness by day and camping for the night, gathered around a fire for warmth, eating off the land and standing guard against wild animals and hostile Indians, progress was terribly slow. The journey from Nacogdoches to the Brazos River would have taken about four to six weeks alone.

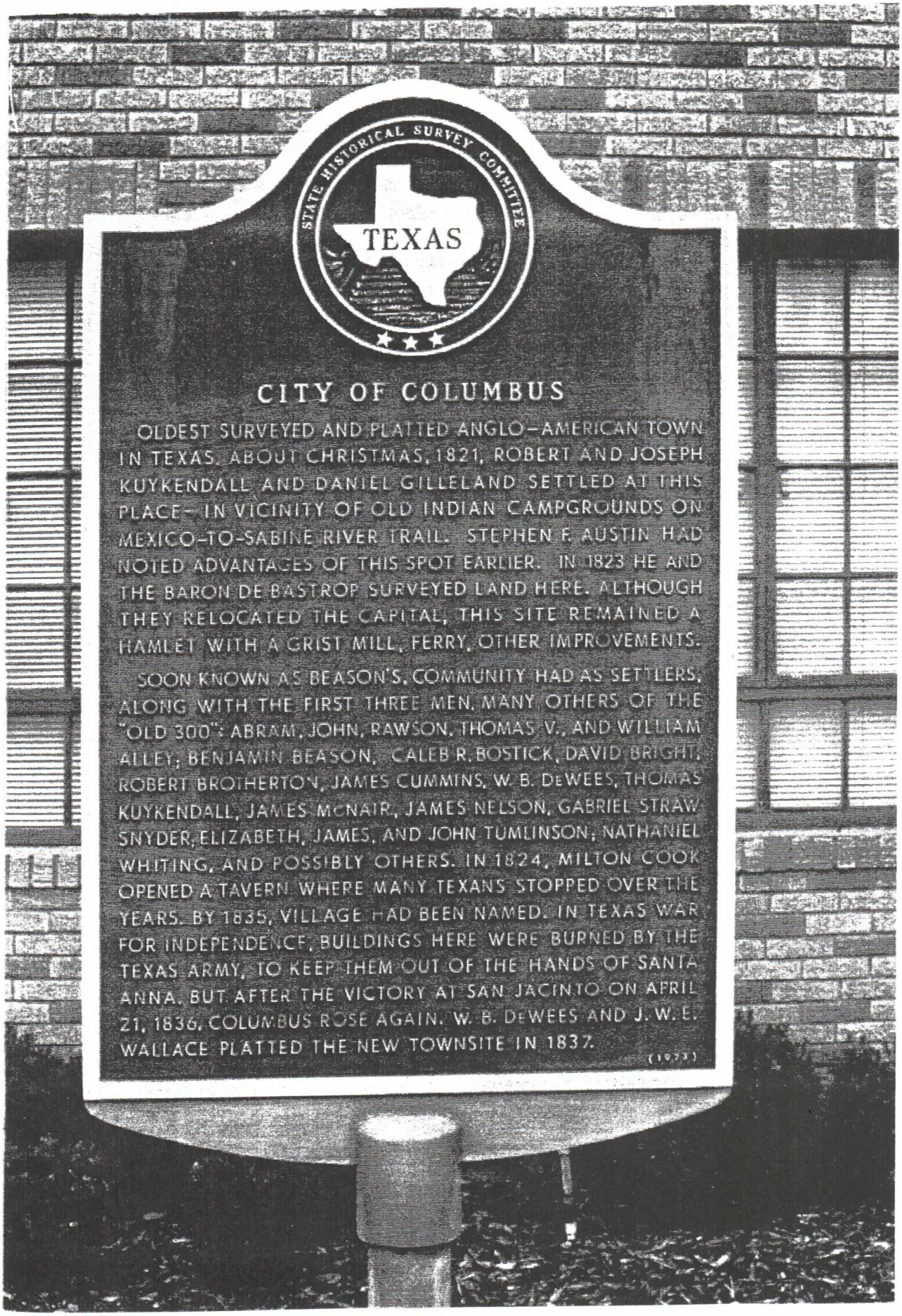
Thomas Williams, Jr. remembered those days when he wrote:

> On the 15th day of December [1821] we got to the Brazos River; we dined on pecans. We had been without bread for two months. Father started out hunting next day; was gone eight days. Bostic [Bostick] kept us in turkey and Brother Ben killed two deer, but we lived on pecans and honey most of the time. [13]

Benjamin's name disappears at this point, so it is probable that he died in 1822. Historians disagree on the exact date when those first few members of Austin Old Three Hundred reached the banks of the Brazos River. It is claimed that Andrew Robinson and his family were the first to cross, in November of 1821. Supposedly the three Kuykendall brothers arrived a few days later. One account states that the Boatwright, McNeese, and Allcorn party arrived on December 31st, to join the Gillelands, Kuykendalls, and Robinsons, already camped on the west bank. [14] Andrew Robinson had built a crude raft to transport the families across and would remain there, operating a ferry for many years. The most reasonable explanation for the confusion as to the dates is that many of the accounts of the crossing were given by settlers later in life, when memory was not always clear, as well as the fact that the settlers were traveling in separate groups, some of which were days apart from one another on the La Bahia Road.

To return to Williams' account:

> Father got home next day after Christmas with two horses loaded down with half dried buffalo meat. All this time we had neither bread nor salt.
>
> On the 27th of December we packed up and moved down the Brazos thirty-five or forty miles, on the east side. We built a camp and cow pen and was splitting rails to make a field. Father went out to take a bear out of a tree, and I went with him.


STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
TEXAS
CITY OF COLUMBUS
OLDEST SURVEYED AND PLATTED ANGLO-AMERICAN TOWN IN TEXAS. ABOUT CHRISTMAS, 1821, ROBERT AND JOSEPH KUYKENDALL AND DANIEL GILLELAND SETTLED AT THIS PLACE - IN VICINITY OF OLD INDIAN CAMPGROUNDS ON MEXICO-TO-SABINE RIVER TRAIL. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HAD NOTED ADVANTAGES OF THIS SPOT EARLIER. IN 1823 HE AND THE BARON DE BASTROP SURVEYED LAND HERE. ALTHOUGH THEY RELOCATED THE CAPITAL, THIS SITE REMAINED A HAMLET WITH A GRIST MILL, FERRY, OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.
SOON KNOWN AS BEASON'S, COMMUNITY HAD AS SETTLERS, ALONG WITH THE FIRST THREE MEN, MANY OTHERS OF THE "OLD 300": ABRAM, JOHN, RAWSON, THOMAS V., AND WILLIAM ALLEY; BENJAMIN BEASON, CALEB R. BOSTICK, DAVID BRIGHT, ROBERT BROTHERTON, JAMES CUMMINS, W. B. DEWEES, THOMAS KUYKENDALL, JAMES MCNAIR, JAMES NELSON, GABRIEL STRAW SNYDER, ELIZABETH, JAMES, AND JOHN TUMLINSON; NATHANIEL WHITING, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. IN 1824, MILTON COOK OPENED A TAVERN WHERE MANY TEXANS STOPPED OVER THE YEARS. BY 1835, VILLAGE HAD BEEN NAMED. IN TEXAS WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE, BUILDINGS HERE WERE BURNED BY THE TEXAS ARMY, TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THE HANDS OF SANTA ANNA. BUT AFTER THE VICTORY AT SAN JACINTO ON APRIL 21, 1836, COLUMBUS ROSE AGAIN. W. B. DEWEES AND J. W. E. WALLACE PLATTED THE NEW TOWNSITE IN 1837.
(1973)

Next day Johnny [John Ingram] and I was out in the bottom killing possums, and about twenty-five or thirty Tonkaways [Tonkawa Indians] came to us. We took them to the house with us. They were tame.

I went out to look for the horses and found the colt a few steps from its mother, dead, and covered up with leaves -- knowing it to be the work of a panther, I went home for my dogs and gun, the dogs soon trailed and treed it. When I was taking aim to fire, it leaped into the air and fell to the ground, and the dogs covered it. I ran up but found it dead; knowing that the dogs could not have killed it, I was very much puzzled, but, on looking behind me a few steps the mystery was solved, for standing and smiling at my perplexity was a Tonkaway Indian; he had killed the panther with his noiseless but deadly weapon, the bow and arrow. The Tonkaways were friendly with the whites so I had nothing to fear from him.

Father and Bostic was gone twenty days and Jones and I were the only men left at home to guard the families and stock, which was then in continual danger from the redskins. When we went to bed at night we did not know what our fate would be before the morrow's sun. [15]

If Williams' memory is correct (he was 14 years old at the time), then Thomas and Nancy Williams and family moved down the Brazos River on the east bank. Daniel Gilleland and family, along with Joseph and Robert Kuykendall (his brother-in-law) and families, moved down river, presumably on the west side. The other Kuykendalls and Allcorns settled at New Year's Creek, so named because they reached that place January 1, 1822, in present-day Washington County.

Daniel Gilleland, along with Robert and Joseph Kuykendall, moved on from the Brazos, reaching the Colorado River at the site of Columbus, in early 1822. There is some reason to believe that their exploring party was sent by Stephen F. Austin, himself, to investigate the area for settlement. Austin, in his own travels had ridden somewhat west of the site the previous summer. [16]

Returning to Williams:

In 1822 Stephen F. Austin landed at the mouth of the Colorado River with some families. Father and Bostic had taken the pack horses and went to move them up to the settlement. They moved a family named Payton. From them Father got a barrel of flour, the first bread of any kind we had seen in eighteen months. Some of the smaller children thought the bread was terrapins [turtles] and almost burned it trying to make it crawl before Mother could tell them it was really something to eat.

In 1822 January, Father and Mother and sisters Nancy and Mary crossed the Colorado. We were the first family that crossed the Colorado River.

S. F. Austin came the 18th of July of the same year; stayed from Saturday till Monday with us. We lived at the mouth of what is now known as Williams Creek. We stayed there till the spring of 1823.

Bostic and I went after the rest of the things belonging to Payton. We had a splendid trip and got another barrel of flour for our work. The following are names of the families that came that time; Brights, Smalley, Rolls, Hunter, Paton and Kinchels.

In July of the same year [1822] father had to cross the river for some cause, leaving Mother and my two sisters and myself alone. A party of Tonkaways were camped in our yard, and after dark they began screaming and firing of their guns, crying "Comanchees! Comanchees! they come! they come!" Well as the Comanchees were on the war path you can imagine we were pretty badly frightened. We left the house and spent the night in the woods, about two

miles from home. It was late the next morning before we returned home, but was so lucky to find that Father had returned during the night. The Tonkaways told him the Comanchees and Towacanoes had been there and frightened us away. But they lied. The Comanchees had not been there at all. They had raised the alarm to frighten us off, so they could plunder the house. Father was very angry with them, and drove them off from our place. [17]

Stephen F. Austin, who had traveled to New Orleans in order to arrange financing for his venture and seeking a more expeditious means of transporting his 300 families and their goods to Texas, purchased the schooner 'Lively' and had her outfitted and provisioned to take passengers to the mouth of the Colorado River. When, in the early spring of 1822, the Lively had not appeared, Austin became concerned and led a small party, including Daniel Gilleland and the Kuykendall brothers, on a search of the river mouth and nearby coast. As it turned out the Lively had landed by mistake at the mouth of the Brazos, so the search had been in vain. [18]

A change in leadership in Mexico City threatened to revoke Austin's agreement for the colonization of Texas and he started for the capitol in March of 1822, placing Josiah Bell in charge of the fledgling colony. During Austin's absence, which lasted until August of 1823, the new Mexican governor, Trespalacios, directed the Baron de Bastrop to go to the settlements along the Colorado and the Brazos and see to the election of an alcalde and military commandant for each place. These elections were held on November 20, 1822, with John Tumlinson elected alcalde of the Colorado Settlement, and Robert H. Kuykendall elected military commander. In the Brazos Settlement those elected were Josiah Bell, alcalde, and Andrew Robinson, commandant. Daniel Gilleland was one of those who cast his vote, along with Robert Kuykendall and Thomas Williams. [19]

In an effort to afford the settlements some measure of protection Austin formed a militia of sorts, employing ten men, at his own account and at his own expense, to serve as "rangers." Not much is known of this early group of defenders, but they were the predecessors of what would evolve a few decades later into the Texas Rangers. Every able-bodied man in the colony was needed to serve in times of attack, or crisis, so it is likely that Daniel Gilleland served as one of these "rangers." [20]

A census taken of the settlers living in the Colorado Municipality, as of March 4, 1823, shows as residents: Daniel Gilleland, age 29, his wife, Precilla, age 20, and their daughter, Sarah, age 1 year. Daniel's occupation is listed as farmer and he had property including horses, cattle, and farming equipment. [21] An election was held on August 16th of that year for Alcalde of the District of Colorado and James Cummins was elected to that office by a unanimous 14 votes. Joseph and Robert Kuykendall, Thomas Williams, and Daniel Gilleland were among those who voted. [22]

From Reminiscence of T.J. Williams:

February 15, 1823, we were again troubled with Indians. They came to Duty's and Rabb's first as they lived above us. The Comanchee Indians were about two hundred strong. Wm. Rabb killed them a beef, and sent us word they were coming. As soon as they left, Duty and Rabb taken their families and went to Cummings Creek.

I was out hunting the horses and met the Indians' advance guard. We had a very strong picket fence around our house and kept the gate barred. The Indians went on home with me. Father let me and three of the Chiefs in, and left the rest outside. One old Chief with a large silver buckle on his hair was highly insulted at not being let in; he went around trying the pickets; finally he found a weak place, where the dirt had been dug away, when we made a chimney. He pulled off a picket and let all the Indians in. They stayed in a while, and he made them all go out except the Chiefs. They said they wanted beef and salt, and powder and lead. Father gave them a large barren cow, but he had none of the other things to give them. We sent John Haddon out to hunt up all the white men he could to come and make a treaty with the Indians, but Haddon only went as far as where Columbus now stands; then we sent Jesse Roberson. The second day four of our men came in sight from hunting the Indians, saw them and all broke for them, some horseback and some afoot. They took them to be Tonkaway Indians, and intended to kill them, but when they saw they was white, they came back to the house again. We had a case of honey hanging in the gallery and one old Indian came along and cut one of its legs off and commenced sucking the honey. Mother saw him and it made her very angry, so she slapped him in his face. He tried to dodge the lick and by so doing fell sprawling on his back. He got terribly mad and the rest of the Indians laughed at him; they thought they were disgraced to be hit by a squaw.

At last we got twenty-three men together. James Ross was head man. We made a treaty with them. They stayed there all next morning; then they left. Next day Father moved the family and his cattle and hogs, and such things as he could across the Colorado River. Next day he went back after the rest of his things. While he was there he saw about fifty of them same Indians coming back; he left with as much [illegible] as possible. The Indians destroyed everything they could on the place; then they went on.

Then Father came [illegible] we moved down to Cummings about three miles from Columbus. The Tonkaways stayed with us; they were terrible afraid of the Comanchees. We stayed there three months and had a small school. Nick Gallard was our teacher; then the Tonkaways commenced getting rite sausy, and we were getting afraid of them; then Robert Brotherton and John C. Clark, and two other men whose names I don't remember, went down to the mouth of Scull Creek to look at the land. Brotherton was horseback, and Clark and the other three men in a canoe. The Cronks and Croaks [Indians] got after them; they shot three arrows in Brotherton, and wounded the men in the canoe. Brotherton came up to the settlement and the other three men escaped in the cane brake; they were all wounded very bad, but they all lived. When Brotherton told us about it we raised 18 men and went down there and run them off; we did not get to kill very many.

An old Tonkaway Chief went with us; he had about twenty Indians with him, but they all left us except the old Chief, he stayed with us the whole trip; his name Coreet; we were gone eight days.

In June 1823 we started to move to Peach Creek; the first day we did not get very far; we stopped, made a big fire and all went to a branch to water our horses; it was a very dry time, and while we was gone we heard a gun fire. Drawn up there and found that the fire had burned to our guns, but I got them away before they were very badly hurt. The next day we got to a large lake. Father found two large eagles on it and killed them both, and from that time it has been called Eagle Lake. The next day we arrived at Peach Creek and camped. Father and Bostic and Thomas Jimmerson and Mose Morrison cut a path through Peach Creek bottom to the head of Bay prairie, then they went on to the lower end of Bay prairie; then they went through Caney bottom and went to Cedar Lake; there Father located.

While they was gone an old cow came lowing, and Gill Kuykendall [son of R.H. and Sarah (Gilleland) Kuykendall] got on his horse and followed her down in the cane break, and he came upon the Croncaway Indians where they had killed her calf; he began to beat a retreat as fast as he could, and he came back home and raised the neighbor men; they then went back down there; they killed one Indian, but the rest got away.

Father came back home and got his hogs and went back to build a house and to cut the road out so we could come. I stayed with Mother. While he was gone we heard that there were sixty Croncaway [Karankawa] Indians down there to kill all the families on Peach Creek. So, we all left there and went on the Middle Bernard, all the other families went with us. The men all got together to fight them, but it was a false alarm, for no Indians came. We stayed there awhile, then went back to Peach Creek; in a few days after that Father came up after us, so we then moved down to Cedar Lake. Father had built a large block house with port holes in the upper story. Several days after we got there we heard dogs barking on the other side of the lake. We knew they were Indian dogs. Mose Morrison had made a raft and had gone to the other side of the lake. Mother commenced calling for him to come back, and hearing her screaming, it frightened the Indians and they ran off. They had been camped over there. Father, Bostic, Mose Morrison, Thos. Jimmerson and I went over there. We found a good many things the Indians had left in their hurry to leave, among the rest there was a large bow and a case of sixteen arrows.

Father stayed at Cedar Lake then until he died; we killed sixteen bear that winter; they were very fat. That year we killed one that measured seven inches through the fat after it was cured. We killed a good many turkeys and deers and panthers and other game. I killed one large panther by myself.

That same fall two more families moved down there, one named John Bell and the other Harrison. Bell had three children and Harrison two, and Father had three. We had a school there, a man named Thos. Tone taught. [Thomas Tone would be the third husband of Sarah (Gilleland) Kuykendall]. [23]

By October of 1823 Daniel and Precilla Gilleland were living at Cedar Creek, in present-day Washington County. Daughter Sarah was now 2 years old and on October 25, a son, William, named for Daniel's father, was born. [24] Also in October of that year, James and Dianna Gilleland traveled to Austin's Colony from the Red River area where they had been living for some time. James Gilleland was not among Austin's Old Three Hundred, which seems to indicate that he did not come to Texas with the rest of his family in 1821. It has been said that Dianna Gilleland was the first white woman to cross the Brazos River, but to date that claim cannot be substantiated and there is no documentation to show that she and James were in Austin's Colony any earlier than 1823. [25]

Mary Crownover Rabb, in her own reminiscence, Travels and Adventures in Texas in the 1820's, encountered the James Gilleland family on her way to Texas, and writes:

I left Jonesboro, Red River, Miller County, Arkansas, with my husband John Rabb and my little babe to come to Texas. We started October 1, 1823...

...after we had drove on a few days, we met up with James Gilleland and his family that was on their way to Texas: a wife and a little babe and John Ingram and a little orphan boy. I did remember what his name was. I took breakfast with Mrs. Gilleland that morning and then we drove on. We got a quantity of nice grapes on the road and we found one bee tree. We got some nice honey. [26]

The babe which Mary Rabb refers to was Rebecca Ann Gilleland, born August 16, 1822 in the Red River Settlements, probably Jonesboro, and named for her grandmother, Rebecca Adams. [27] John Ingram,

if he is the same Ingram who accompanied T. J. Williams to Texas in 1821, would have been 15 years old in 1823. It is possible that he was returning to claim his land, now that he was older.

The next year, 1824, was an eventful one in the life of the Williams' family, here again related by T. J. Williams:

> In the spring of 1824, Father, Jimmerson and Morrison started to go over on old Caney to see if they could find a dead cane break to burn off so they could make a field in it. They had not gone more than six miles when they come rite upon the Croncaway Indian camp. They got back home as fast as they could, and on the same evening some surveyors came to our house; with them, and the men that was there at the lake made fourteen men. Father stayed at home and I went in his place. We went to their camp, but they were all gone. Then we went on down to Caney river about ten miles, and found them. They were about a mile off when we saw them. We ran there, but found they were on the south side of the river while we were on the east. We commenced shooting at them across the river. They had crossed the creek in a large canoe and it got loose from them and the wind blew it on our side; we got in it and crossed over there, but the Indians had all got away.
>
> On the fourth day of July of the same year [1824] Father died; he was in his fifty-third year; there were still no Doctors in the country. I suppose Father died from exposure. I was left then with my Mother and two sisters to support and protect. [28]

T. J. Williams was 17 years old when his father died. Thomas Williams, Sr., known as "Old Tom Williams," was remembered as the father of a large family, none of which were born in a house but in a hunting camp. [29] He was the man the young widow, Nancy Gilleland, turned to in 1802 and was the only father that her children, Daniel, Sarah, and James, could remember. He lived a rough life of adventure on the frontier and took his place among Austin's Old Three Hundred pioneers.

The Reminiscence of T. J. Williams ends in the spring of 1825:

> Then we moved up on old Caney. In the spring of 1825 twelve of us went down to the lower end of Buckner's Prairie [spelled Prerria] to fight the Croncaways, and we got whipped. We killed one Indian, but we did not lose any men. We went back home and got twenty six men and went after them; again we overtook them at Dressing's Point on the Matagorda Bay. We killed eight or nine; and wounded a good many. We were out a week or ten days on this and then went home.
>
> In a few days we heard there were a crowd of Croncaways up at Daniel Rawlles place, we went up there and charged on their camp just below Henry Williams' place on the river. We killed and captured all but one man. We took one young girl and two boy prisoners. Then we went back home and in five or six days word came that the Indians had killed Mr. Corvenah, wife, and three daughters and Mr. Flowers' wife and daughter, and wounded one of Mr. Corvenah's daughters. We got twenty five or twenty six men and went for them again; we overtook them at Battle Island some few miles above the turn of Matagorda. We killed a great many there. [30]

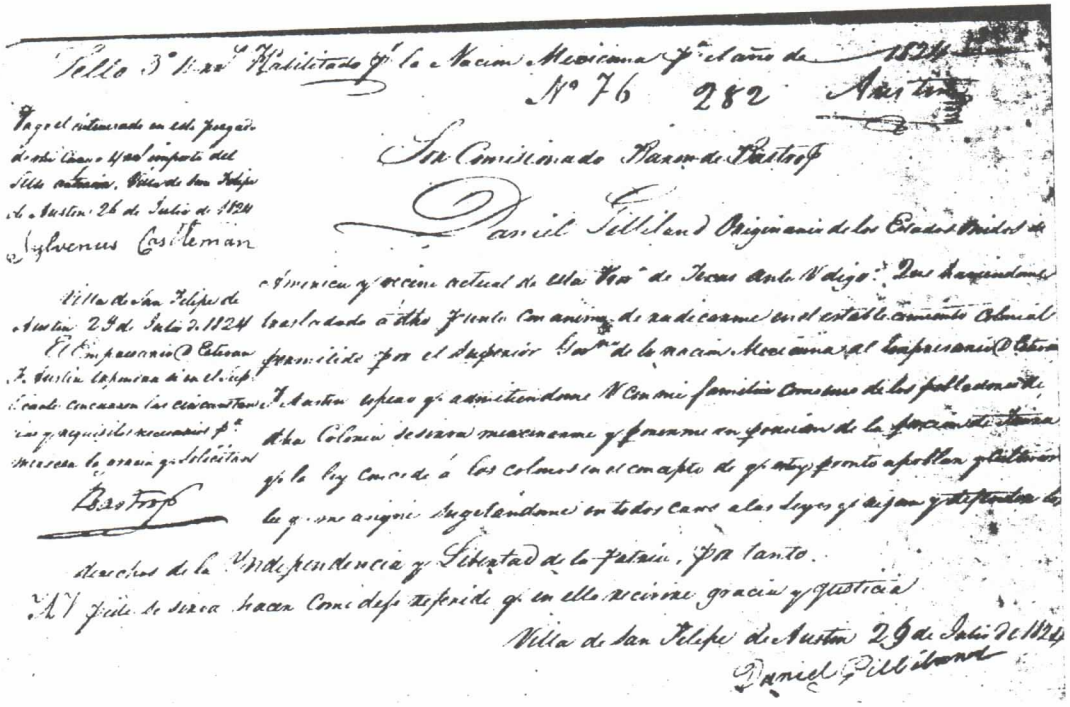
Thomas Johnson Williams, to whom we owe this Reminiscence, died October 5, 1889 in Matagorda County, Texas, at 81 years of age. [31]

Daniel Gilleland received his first land grant of one labor, or 177 acres, from Stephen F. Austin, on August 3, 1824. This labor was located in present Austin County, along the Brazos River, midway between

the site of Washington-on-the-Brazos and San Felipe de Austin, and directly below a grant of land awarded to Thomas Boatwright, Daniel's father-in-law. [32] According to Austin, Austin and the Baron de Bastrop:

> ...taking him by the hand over them, telling him in a loud and audible voice that by virtue of the commission and the powers we are vested with and in the name of the government of the Mexican Nation, we put him in possession of said lands with all their uses, profits, rights and appurtenances for him, his heirs and assigns, and the said Daniel Gilleland, on being put in real and personal possession of said lands without any objection, shouted, pulled grasses, threw stones, planted stakes and performed all the other necessary ceremonies... [33]

For the first time in his adult life Daniel Gilleland owned land outright. The rich soil along the Colorado would yield the crops he and his growing family needed and there was plenty of pasture land for his cattle to graze on. Tall stands of timber would provide logs for a house to shelter the family. Little Sarah was almost 3 years old and William would soon turn 1. Precilla was carrying another child, due just after the first of the year. Life was good for Daniel Gilleland as he contemplated his surroundings on an early fall day in 1824. His nearest neighbor lived some miles away, down river, and he often roamed the riverbanks and woods nearby, hunting game or searching for wild grapes, honey, and pecans. With Precilla at his side he had crossed "Jordan's Stormy Banks" in search of a new promised land. There was much to be thankful for that autumn and happiness to balance the sadness of summer, when death took "Old Tom" Williams. Daniel's brother's wife was due to have a baby soon. The child, Nancy Dianna Gilleland, came into this world on November 17, 1824, bearing the names of her paternal grandmother, Nancy Williams, and her mother, Dianna Gilleland. [34]



Sello 3° Vale Habilitado p.ª la Nacion Mexicana p.ª el año de 1824
N.º 76 282 Austin

Pago el interesado en esta Tesoreria de este Estado y el importe del Sello contenido, Villa de San Felipe de Austin 26 de Julio de 1824
Sylvanus Castleman

Sr. Comisionado Baron de Bastrop

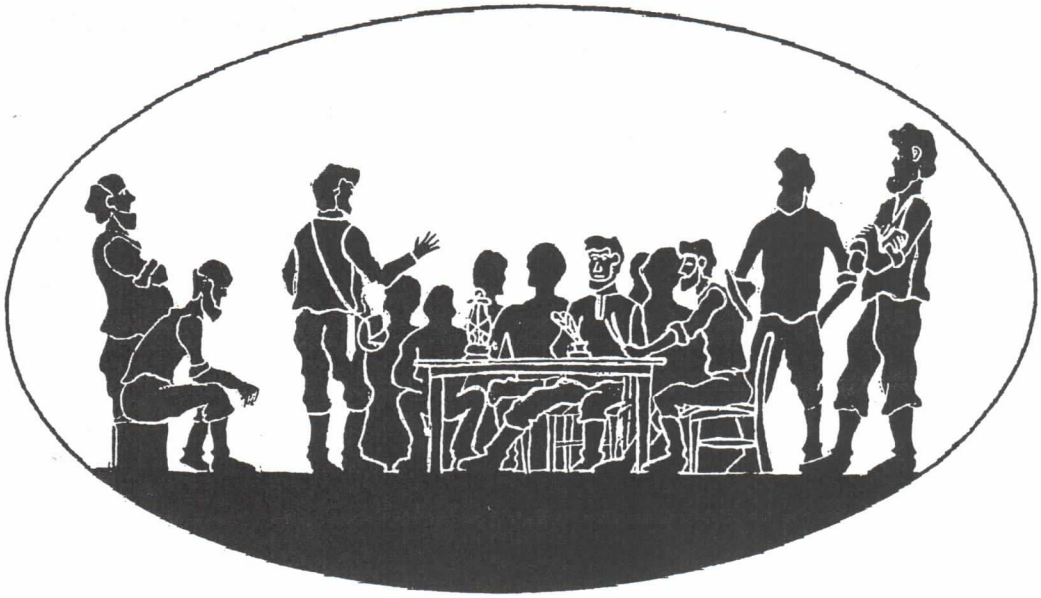
Daniel Gilleland Originario de los Estados Unidos de America y vecino actual de esta Villa de Texas ante V. digo: Que hacienda dos lustrado á dha Provincia con animo de radicarme en el establecimiento Colonial prometido por el Supremo Gob.no de la Nacion Mexicana al Empresario Estevan F. Austin, espero que admitiendome V. con mi familia como uno de los pobladores de dha Colonia se sirva mecercarme y formarme con gracia de la posesion de terreno que la ley concede á los colonos en el concepto de que estoy pronto á poblar y cultivar lo que me asigne sugetandome en todos casos á las leyes y decretos de los Supremos Poderes de la Federacion y Libertad de la Patria, por tanto.

A V. pido se sirva hacer como dejo referido que en ello recibiré gracia y justicia

Villa de San Felipe de Austin 29 de Julio de 1824
Daniel Gilleland

Villa de San Felipe de Austin 29 de Julio de 1824
El Empresario Estevan F. Austin informa de un Sitio de Ganado Cercado con las circunstancias y requisitos necesarios p.ª merecer la gracia solicitada
Bastrop

Chapter III



"Back to Arkansas"

1825 ~ 1830

"...Your Petitioners are now informed that the lands they now occupy, are ceded and confirmed to said Choctaw Indians, and that Your Petitioners are shortly to be removed from their farms, without payment or recompense for their improvements, to give Place to Indians!!"

Petition to the President
by Citizens of Miller County, 1825

Daniel and Precilla's fourth child, a son, was born January 3, 1825, and given the name Thomas, after his mother's father, Thomas Boatwright. [1] He was the third of their children to have been born on Texas soil, but the last who would be born there for some six years, owing to a series of events that took place in the years 1824 and 1825.

Some months following Thomas' birth, Daniel Gilleland and family, in company with their Boatwright relations, left Austin's Colony for the Red River Settlements. Whether there was some dissatisfaction with the Mexican government, or some other factor, is not known. What is known, however, is that the United States government, in the year 1825, signed a treaty with the Choctaw Indian Nation, at Washington, ceding members of the tribe lands within the boundaries of Miller County, Arkansas Territory. This was only the latest in a series of treaties between the federal government and the Indians, the Quapaw Treaty having been signed in 1818, followed by the Treaty of Doke's Stand, in 1820.

A reporter for the *Louisiana Advertiser*, quoted in the February 3, 1821 issue of the *Arkansas Gazette*, conveyed the consequences of the Doke's Stand Treaty as follows:

> On Red River the Indian line will include the whole of Miller County (being the Pecan Point and Clear Creek Settlements on the north side of the river) and about half of the population of Hempstead (one of the most populous counties of the territory). [2]

The primary argument put forth by the settlers who inhabited old Miller County, Arkansas Territory, was that those same lands had been surveyed into sections, with settlement and improvements anticipated, and that some semblance of government and authority had been implemented in the county.

The January 6, 1821 edition of the *Arkansas Gazette* included the following insight:

> There is one thing, however, which is certain. If the Treaty is ratified, nearly, if not all, the families which fall within the limit of the cession within the Territory, will remove to the Spanish Province of Texas, and seek that protection under a foreign monarch, which is denied to them in their native country. This, we have the best authority for saying, will undoubtedly be the case. [3]

To redress what they perceived to be a grievous injustice done them by the United States' government, settlers in Miller County drew up a lengthy petition which outlined their claim as citizens to the protection of the government. Two hundred and seventy settlers signed or made their mark on this document, dated July 10-18, 1825, which reads as follows:

PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT BY CITIZENS OF MILLER COUNTY

[*No Date*, 1825]

To the President of the United States

The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of that Part of Miller County, in the Territory of Arkansas, ceded and confirmed to the Choctaw Nation of Indians, by Treaty made with them at Washington City, in the present Year (1825). Respectfully Sheweth.--

That the tract of Country upon which Your Petitioners reside, was acquired by the United States from the Quapaw Nation of Indians, by Treaty made with them about the Year 1818.--By which said Treaty, the said tract of Country became a part of the public Lands of the United States. And that the Legislature of the Territory of Missouri (within which the said tract of country was then situated) included the said tract of Country upon which Your Petitioners now reside, within the Civil Jurisdiction of Hempstead County of that Territory, by an Act of the Legislature thereof (which has since been divided and Miller County erected out of the Western part of said County of Hempstead). That about the Year 1819, a part of the same public Lands upon which Your Petitioners now reside, were under the authority of the United States surveyed into Townships, and subdivided into sections, as far as Ranges 38 or 39 West, and within about eight Miles of the present western boundary of Arkansas Territory, as established by Act of Congress, and lately surveyed and marked. That on the 5th January 1819, by Authority of an order from the Secretary of War, a few Settlers that were on Red River above Kia-Miche, and on the Arkansas above the Poto, were removed below, and East of those Rivers, to where no prohibition to settling then, or since, existed, and within a few Miles of which point (Kia-Miche on Red River) the public Lands were about that time, or soon afterwards, surveyed into sections, as if to facilitate Settlers in acquiring titles to the Lands they choose to settle, in the usual way provided for by law. That under these encouragements by the Authorities of the Government, there was an immediate and considerable Increase of the settlements at and below Kia-Miche, on Red River, upon and near the lands surveyed into sections as aforesaid, most of which settlements were made with a view to being permanent, and improvements large and valuable. That Your Petitioners became greatly alarmed by a Treaty made with said Choctaw Nation of Indians at Dokes Stand, about the year 1820, by which the country upon which Your Petitioners reside (together with other large extents of adjoining Territory) was then ceded to said Indians,--But were soon afterwards reconciled by assurances from the President of the United States, received by James Miller, Governor of Arkansas, that it was not the view or intention of the General Government, to remove any of the Settlers from the Lands then ceded to said Indians and that the then settled parts of said country so ceded to said Indians would be repurchased from them, which assurances have been by the Delegate in Congress from said Territory, frequently since that time renewed. And under which assurances, Your Petitioners became satisfied, and have continued enlarging their farms and improvements.

Your Petitioners further respectfully represent, that from the time of their first settlement where they now reside, Civil Government, and Civil Jurisdiction has been extended to them, and Courts of Law established and held, within the tract of Country lately ceded and confirmed to said Choctaw Indians by the aforesaid Treaty of the present year [1825] and that under the authority of an Act of Congress [passed in 1824] granting rights of pre-emption for lands on which to establish permanent seats of Justice of New Counties, a quarter section of land had been selected by the proper commissioners of said County of Miller, and part of the public buildings contracted for. Under which assurances of protection and Civil Government a large number of Settlers have continued to ~~improve~~ enlarge their improvements, plant Orchards, and increase their Stocks &c, up to the present time, and that now to abandon their plantations, and remove their families and property, is to them ruinous and impossible.

Your Petitioners are aware, that the General Government have heretofore removed from Indian lands, Citizens of the United States, who settled upon lands owned at the time of such settlements by Indians, Where the settlement at the beginning were upon Indian lands, but Your present Petitioners respectfully deny having settled upon Indian lands: They settled upon the public lands of the United States, where settlements were not prohibited by any order of the Government, where part of the public lands were surveyed into sections (a thing Never done for Indian purposes) and where, after the same country was first ceded to the Choctaws, the people have had assurances from the highest Authority, that the settled parts of said Country should be repurchased, and Your Petitioners afforded an opportunity of acquiring titles to their possessions, in the way that the Settlers upon the public lands have usually done, in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama &c. Yet notwithstanding all the foregoing circumstances and assurances, Your Petitioners are now informed, that the lands they now occupy, are ceded and confirmed to said Choctaw Indians, and that Your Petitioners are shortly to be removed from their farms, without payment or recompense for their improvements, to give Place to Indians!! An Act that would have no example in any civilized Government, under the same circumstances which these settlements were made. An improved Country of Citizens where they have had the protection of Civil Laws and Civil Government for more than six successive Years, to be ceded by their Government to a Nation of Indians, has, it is believed, No examples.

These settlements, not having been commenced upon the lands of the Choctaw Indians, but upon the public Lands of the United States, then surveying for market, still claim the same protection of the same laws and Government, under the faith of which they commenced their settlements. To be forced and driven by our own Government from the farms and improvements we have laboured for years to make, for the support of our families, in order to give place to Indians, would under all the circumstances and assurances before mentioned, appear so unjust and unprecedented, and to the Settlers so ruinous, that its enforcement would produce the greatest possible excitement. Your Petitioners therefore respectfully ask of Your Excellencey [sic] to suspend the survey of the eastern boundary of Territory, lately ceded to said Choctaw Indians, and to suspend the time of giving said Indians possession of said Territory, and cause to be re-purchased from them, the parts of said Territory settled and improved by Citizens of the United States, as aforesaid East of the Kia-Miche on Red River, and of the Poto on Arkansas, where settlements by Citizens has never been prohibited, but approbated and encouraged as before mentioned.

As Your Petitioners in duty bound will ever pray

Petitioner Names

Among the 270 signatures are the following:

Lewis Boatwright
Thomas Boatwright
Nathaniel Moore Junior
Richard Boatwright
James Gilleland
Daniel Gilleland [4]

The General Assembly of the Arkansas Territory adopted a memorial to the United States Congress during the fall session, 1825, requesting that the Choctaw Treaty be rescinded, or to at least buy back from the Indians those lands formerly occupied by the Americans. [5]

Although the General Assembly pursued another memorial to Congress in the fall of 1826, there would be no change in the government's disposition on the matter, and no compensation for the

displaced settlers, many of whom now lived on the south side of Red River, at Jonesboro or Pecan Point, or in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

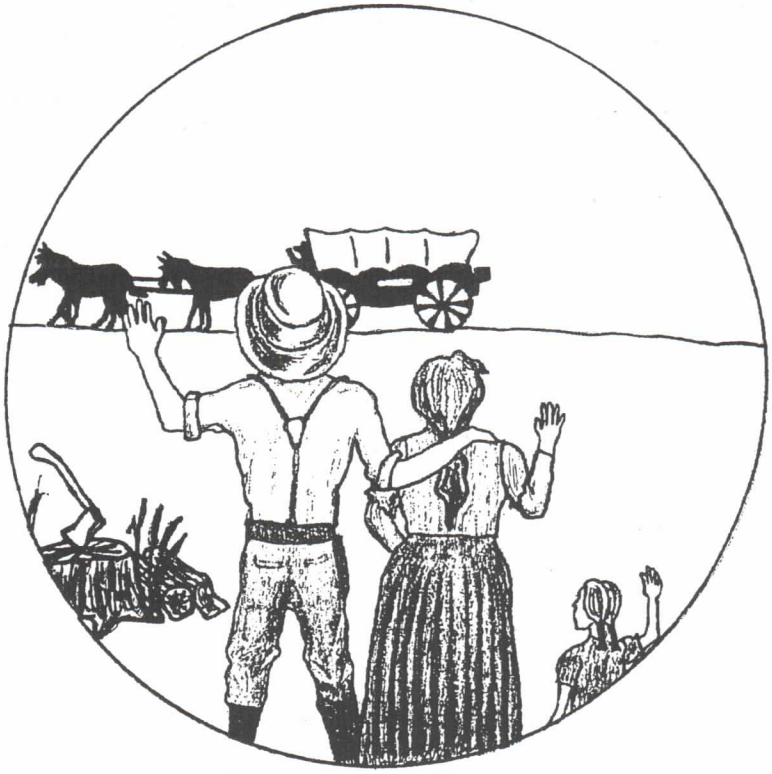
In early November of 1828 some of the settlers in Miller County deliberately set fire to the courthouse, destroying all records filed since 1821. [6] That same fall rumors spread of an impending Indian invasion of the area, causing settlers to flee to the north side of Red River. [7]

For the Gilleland and Boatwright families these must have been trying times. They had left their new-found land in Austin's Colony for Miller County, convinced that they possessed a legal argument which would establish their claim to lands they had been driven off of in 1818 and 1819. Now, with all hope gone, they had to bide their time while trying to decide what course to follow.

During those uncertain years spent in the Red River area, predominantly in Miller and Hempstead counties, life went on for the Gilleland family. A second daughter, Mary, was born to Daniel and Precilla, on January 23, 1827, probably in Hempstead County. [8] Nathaniel, named for his mother's father, Nathaniel Moore, first and only son of James and Dianna Gilleland, arrived on December 5, 1828, in Hempstead County, Arkansas. [9] Shortly after Nathaniel's birth the James Gilleland family returned to Austin's Colony, moving to the settlement of Mina, later known as Bastrop. [10] On January 19, 1829, Precilla Gilleland gave birth to a third daughter, Nancy, named for Daniel's mother. It is said that she was born in Pope County, Arkansas. [11] And old Thomas Boatwright, Precilla's father, died during these years and is presumed to be buried in Arkansas. [12]

The following year, in the spring of 1830, Daniel and Precilla Gilleland and their family, consisting of Sarah, 8, William, 6, Thomas, 4, Mary, 3, and Nancy, 1, turned their backs on Arkansas and their dreams of Red River for the last time and joined the stream of settlers heading for Texas. As they loaded up the wagon and set out for their Texas home, Daniel's thoughts were on the rich lands lying along the Colorado River and the times he had known there. And his thoughts must have turned also to his kin. It had been over a year since he had last laid eyes on his brother James, and five long years had passed since the day he bid goodbye to his sister, Sarah Kuykendall.

Chapter IV



"And Sister Sarah Stayed"

1825 ~ 1830

"...If they were hungry, they fed them, if sick, they nursed them, if homeless, they gave them shelter until such time as they could provide for themselves."

Marshall E. Kuykendall
on Robert and Sarah (Gilleland) Kuykendall

Sarah Gilleland was a young woman of seventeen when she wed Robert Hardin Kuykendall in Arkansas Territory, about the year 1814. [1] Robert, born in 1790, the son of Adam and Margaret Hardin Kuykendall, and known to Sarah's brothers, Daniel and James, was engaged as an Indian trader and hunter along the Arkansas River. Colonel Alexander McFarland, heading up a group of traders, Robert included, left the Cadron in the summer of 1812 with the purpose of trading among the Indians for horses and mules along the upper Red River. While alone in camp McFarland was set upon and killed by a band of Osage Indians. Kuykendall later gave a deposition, in 1814, supporting the claim of McFarland's widow against the U.S. government to compensate for her husband's death. [2] This would not be the first or last time that Robert H. Kuykendall would come up against hostile Indians.

Kuykendall's experiences along the Arkansas and Red Rivers would serve him well once he reached Spanish Texas. By the time he and Sarah crossed the Brazos in the fall of 1821, in company with members of their extended family, there were three Kuykendall children. The eldest of these was Robert H. or Robert Gilleland Kuykendall, called "Gill", born about 1816 in the Cadron Settlement. Mary, or Molly, as she was called, was also born in Arkansas, around 1818, and a second daughter, Jane, was born in 1820. [3]

From the earliest days of Austin's Colony, Robert Kuykendall was among those settlers who assumed leadership roles on the frontier. He and his brother Joseph, along with their brother-in-law, Daniel Gilleland, moved on to the Colorado River, following the La Bahia Road, settling near the site of Columbus, in January, 1822. [4]

In November or December of 1822, Sarah Kuykendall gave birth to a son, Joseph Felix Trespalacios Kuykendall. [5] Trespalacios was the name of the Mexican governor of the province and this would seem to indicate that Robert's relationship to the governor was a close one. Stephen F. Austin, another close friend, had left for Mexico City in March of 1822, entrusting the protection of his colony to Robert Kuykendall and others. During this time Governor Trespalacios divided the colony into two separate districts. One of these settlements would be referred to as the District of the Brazos and the other the District of the Colorado. The first alcalde, or administrator of the Colorado District, was John Tumlinson, who was appointed to that position in August, 1822. [6]

The following year, 1823, seems to have been an eventful one for Robert and Sarah Kuykendall and family. On February 23, a Sunday, a band of Indians attacked a party of settlers on the Colorado River, at the mouth of Skull Creek. Two of the men, John Alley and H.W. Law, lost their lives and another man was seriously wounded. The next day Robert Brotherton was shot in the back with an arrow. On February 25, alcalde John Tumlinson sent Captain Robert Kuykendall at the head of a party of 25 men to pursue the

Indians and punish them for those hostilities. Kuykendall's party caught up with the Indians, who were camped on Skull Creek, and killed eight warriors, while wounding several more. [7]

In June of that same year (1823) Captain Kuykendall commanded a party of men to the mouth of the Colorado River to meet up with the 'Only Son', a schooner carrying Colonel William Kinchelow and some twenty families to Austin's colony. During the trip Kuykendall and his men had another fight with Indians on Skull Creek. [8]

The settlers along the Colorado gathered on August 6, 1823, to elect a new alcalde to replace Tumlinson, and James Cummins was elected by a unanimous fourteen votes. This was the first election in Texas and among those who voted were Robert and Joseph Kuykendall, Thomas Williams, and Daniel Gilleland. [9]

The previous spring, on March 4th, a census was taken of the Colorado District and sent to the governor in San Antonio. This first census of Austin's Colony gives important information on the earliest settlers, the Kuykendalls, Gillelands, and Williams among them. Robert Kuykendall is listed as farmer, age 33, with property consisting of cattle, hogs, and farm tools. Sarah's age is given as 27, with children Robert "Gill", age 8, Molly, age 5, Jane, age 3, and J.F. Trespalacios, age 4 months. [10]

Troubles with Indians continued to plague the Colorado District in the early 1820's. Robert Kuykendall and John Tumlinson had succeeded in obtaining permission from Trespalacios to raise a company of ten men to protect the colony from hostile Indians. This company, under the leadership of Lt. Moses Morrison, was the origin of what would become, a decade later, the Texas Rangers. A letter to the governor in San Antonio from Robert Kuykendall survives:

> Colorado, 13 July 1823
>
> Sir, our affairs at present seem to be somewhat critical in consequence of the frequent depredations of the Indians. On or about the 6th of the present month, Mr. Tumlinson, our Alcalde, started to St. Antonio for the purpose of transacting some business with the Gov. of that place. After crossing the Guad., he and his companion were met by some of the Waco Indians in company with one Spaniard. After some insolent observations and conduct by the Indians, they shot and killed Mr. Tumlinson. -- Newman, who was with Mr. Tumlinson, you will see in your city who will give you every information you may wish on the subject. From the latest information we have been able to collect, there will be no arrivals from Orleans by water shortly likewise, there are no Indians at or near the mouth of the River, neither has there been since Lt. Morrison took his position at that place. We therefore solicit that he and his company may be drawn from that position and placed in that part of the country where they are most needed, at least for three or four months, every man in our position is essential as the upper Indians are numerous and show strong symptoms of hostilities, you will therefore be good enough to take into consideration our request and act agreeably to your own discretion.
>
> We feel it a duty we owe our countrymen to revenge his blood, and the time is not far distant when we will teach those savage people better sence [sic] than to sport with the lives of our countrymen. God grant you many years, your most obedient and very humble servant,--
>
> ROBERT KUYKENDALL
> (Rubric) [11]

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS
THE RANGERS OF AUSTIN'S COLONY
BY MARCH 1822, STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HAD ATTRACTED ABOUT 150 COLONISTS TO TEXAS. THE PIONEERS FACED MANY HARDSHIPS, INCLUDING CONCERN FOR THEIR PROTECTION FROM INDIANS ALONG THE COLORADO AND BRAZOS RIVERS. IN DECEMBER OF THAT YEAR, TRESPALACIOS, THE MEXICAN GOVERNOR DIVIDED THE COLONY INTO TWO DISTRICTS, EACH HAVING AN ALCALDE TO PRESIDE OVER MATTERS OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND A CAPTAIN TO HANDLE PROTECTION OF THE COLONISTS.
IN 1823, AFTER SEVERAL INDIAN ATTACKS ON MEMBERS OF AUSTIN'S COLONY, CAPTAIN ROBERT KUYKENDALL AND ALCALDE JOHN TUMLINSON OF THE COLORADO DISTRICT REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM TRESPALACIOS TO RAISE A COMPANY TO PROTECT THE COLONISTS. TEN MEN WERE RECRUITED TO SERVE UNDER THE COMMAND OF MOSES MORRISON.
WHEN STEPHEN F. AUSTIN RETURNED FROM MEXICO CITY IN AUGUST 1823, HE FOUND THE COLONY STILL PLAGUED BY INDIAN DISTURBANCES AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD EMPLOY TEN ADDITIONAL MEN, AT HIS OWN EXPENSE, TO SERVE AS "RANGERS" FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE.
ALTHOUGH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUP KNOWN AS THE TEXAS RANGERS WAS NOT FORMALLY ORGANIZED UNTIL 1835, THE "RANGERS" OF AUSTIN'S COLONY ARE THE EARLIEST RECORDED FORCE OF THIS TYPE RAISED IN TEXAS AND SERVED AS A MODEL FOR THE LATER FORMATION OF THE TEXAS RANGERS.

The Indians continued to pose a threat a year later when, in the summer of 1824, a band of Karankawas killed one of Captain Kuykendall's calves a short distance from his home. Sending Gill Kuykendall to summon help, Robert, Sarah, and their children hid in a thicket close by. It wasn't until they were all safely concealed that they realized the baby, Joseph Felix, was missing. He had been carried by a female Negro slave who had dropped him while crawling through a rail fence near the house. When it was safe they returned to discover the baby asleep in the tall grass near the fence. A group of neighbors arrived soon after, following the Karankawas to the Colorado River, where a fight ensued, in which one settler was wounded and one Indian killed. [12]

In recognition of his service in settling and defending the colony, Robert H. Kuykendall was granted two leagues of land along the Colorado River in the summer of 1824. Stephen F. Austin wrote the Baron de Bastrop on July 9th to request these grants, stating that Robert Kuykendall should receive the land for these reasons: "...he has a large family, was one of the first settlers, and has always protected the other settlers from the savage Indians." [13] Each of these leagues, or 4,428 acres, lay along the Colorado, one on the east side, the other on the west side.

The area of these grants was known as Bay Prairie, and Robert and Sarah Kuykendall and family would make their home on a part of that league situated on the east side of the Colorado River. Located near present-day Glen Flora, in what is now Wharton County, the Kuykendall home was known as "Pleasant Farm Plantation." [14] Here, Robert would continue to farm and raise cattle, while maintaining his involvement in the affairs of Austin's fledgling colony. An event in the spring of 1826, however, would prove tragic for the family, and many would say, tragic for Texas, as well.

Robert Kuykendall engaged in a skirmish with the Karankawas that spring and suffered a serious injury from which he never recovered. Some accounts relate that he received a blow to the head from a Karankawa stone ax. His brother, Joseph, however, gave a deposition in later years, in which he stated: "...my brother was hit over the head by a gun barrel while he was fighting the Indians and the injury caused his death." [15] This injury would cause Robert to lose his sight and suffer paralysis. In a letter to Stephen Austin, dated 1829, he refers to his declining health, but rejoices in the birth of twin sons, Benjamin and Thomas, born January 21, 1829:

> Col. Stephen F. Austin,
>
> D. Sir, I have drawn an order on you for twenty-five dollars in favor of Mr. Barker, which sum I took the liberty of drawing for from your letter to me. Mr. Wightman has undertaken to teach school for twelve months and the above amt. is a ballance [sic] due for payment of a house and lot in Matagorda to enable me to move there for the purpose of schooling my children. I shall furthermore wish to pay through you at the expiration of the school, fifty dollars to Mr. Wightman, which accounts I will refund you as soon as it is in my power. My health still continues indifferent. I have very little hope of getting much better and shall always continue grateful for your kindness. Since I last saw you, I have had

two sons (twins) born, one named Benjamin and the other Thomas. I remain with every sentiment of esteem,

ROBERT KUYKENDALL
(RUBRIC) [16]

In late May of 1830 Dr. Robert Peebles, prominent physician in Austin's Colony, operated on Robert Kuykendall -- a trepan was performed, in which a hole was drilled in his skull in an attempt to alleviate pressure on the brain. An item in the *Texas Gazette* by then Editor Judge Robert M. Williamson (Three Legged Willie) related the operation on Robert Kuykendall by Dr. Peebles and remarked: "...this proves that we have in our colony, fine doctors." [17] Contrary to the *Texas Gazette*, medicine on the Texas frontier was primitive at best, and Robert Kuykendall died in late 1830, probably in Matagorda, where he usually lived in the summer months. [18] He was 40 years old.

Robert Kuykendall made out his Last Will and Testament on August 6, 1830, signing with a mark, due to his blindness and poor condition. This instrument was witnessed by, among others, E.M. Wightman and Thomas J. Tone, the latter a school teacher and surveyor from the early days of Austin's Colony. Robert's brothers, Abner and Joseph, were appointed by the court as administrators of his estate. Gill Kuykendall, oldest son of Sarah and Robert, was made guardian of the minor children. All property and livestock was to be divided between Sarah and the children. [19]

Robert Hardin Kuykendall was buried most likely in the old Matagorda Cemetery, but his headstone, like so many others, is gone, washed away by one of the big hurricanes that blew in from the Gulf. Sarah (Gilleland) Kuykendall was left widowed at the age of 32, with six children ranging in age from 14 years to the twins, not quite a year old. She and her children were well provided for in land and livestock, but grieving the loss of a husband and father. Nine years had passed since Sarah had come with her husband and three little children to Texas. Those years had been marked by hardships and dangers on the frontier, full of both joy and sorrow. But through it all, for the better part of sixteen years, no matter what she had to face, she knew that Robert would be by her side. As the new year began at Pleasant Farm Plantation, Sarah, the wife, was now Sarah, the widow of Captain Kuykendall.

Chapter V

"Faith on the Frontier"

1830 ~ 1836

"...How many trials and troubles have we passed through together here in Texas, and no opportunity of going to church, yet God was mindful of us and blessed us and gave us his Spirit and made us feel that we was his."

Mary Crownover Rabb

Stephen F. Austin's Register of Families, a list of his colonists with their place of origin and date of immigration, contains this entry:

No. 479 Daniel Gilleland / 35 / Casado / 2 / 3 / labrador /
Arkansas / Julio 1830
Priscilla [sic] su mujer / 26

What this tells us is that Daniel Gilleland, a farmer, age 35, Precilla, his wife, age 26, a married couple with two male children and three female children, arrived in Texas from Arkansas, in July of 1830. [1] Daniel and Precilla returned to the labor granted Daniel in August, 1824, that 177 acres located on the Brazos River, and took up farming and stock raising.

On April 1, 1831, Stephen Austin and the Baron de Bastrop granted Daniel Gilleland one sitio, or league of land, consisting of 4,428 acres, situated on the west side of the Colorado River, some six miles west of Columbus, in present-day Colorado County. [2] Precilla was with child and on January 16, 1831, a son, John Henry Gilleland, namesake of their friend John Henry Moore, was born at Moore's Fort, the future site of La Grange, Fayette County, Texas. [3] The Gillelands had settled there no doubt for protection from Indian hostilities which had increased in the early 1830's, as more Anglo-Americans arrived in Texas. John Henry Moore, whose home was called Moore's Fort (since houses were separated by some distances, almost every dwelling was referred to as "fort", although indications are that a small settlement was in existence there on the Colorado, at that time), was an early Texas settler and Methodist.

By 1833 Daniel and Precilla and their six children had moved from the Fayette County area to Bay Prairie, or present-day Wharton County, so that Daniel could assist his recently-widowed sister, Sarah, at Pleasant Farm. It was there in 1833 that a stand-off occurred between Daniel Gilleland and a band of Karankawa Indians. The Karankawas came to the Gilleland (or possibly Kuykendall) house and demanded a portion of corn. Daniel, who was reputed to be a good farmer, had stored up a large quantity of corn and the Indians, who were hungry, wanted a share. When he refused their demands, the leader, or chief, drew back his bow and threatened to kill him where he stood. Precilla was frightened and begged her husband to give in to the Karankawas and not provoke them further. Daniel, however, stood steadfast, refusing to yield and the Indians retreated to a place nearby and made camp. Enlisting the aid of his closest neighbors, he soon went after the Karankawas. The ensuing skirmish left several Indians dead and wounded, the rest fleeing. From that point on, the tribe ceased in their attempts to blackmail the settlers for food. [4]

From a distance of 160 years there is room for reflection on the almost constant warfare between the settlers and Indians in Texas. Once the tidal wave of Anglo-American immigration hit Austin's Colony in the 1830's there would be no peaceful solution to the problem. Men like Daniel Gilleland and Robert Kuykendall had grown up on an ever-expanding frontier that rolled Westward, steadily encroaching on Indian territory. Not only could they not understand the Indian ways, they resented them, particularly since the government had ceded what they perceived to be their just claims to the Choctaws in Arkansas. In defense of the Indians it should be stated that they fought back in the only way they knew how -- with warfare. With the exception of the Tonkawa Indians, a comparatively peaceful tribe, the other Texas Indians, notably the Comanches (who were largely responsible for the failure of Spanish settlement in Texas) and Karankawas, were engaged in hostilities with the colonists from the very first moment of their arrival. The Karankawas who battled Robert Kuykendall, Thomas Williams, and Daniel Gilleland were the pitiful remainder of a tribe of coastal Indians who, by the time of the Texas Revolution, less than three years later, would, as a result of warfare, hunger, and disease, cease to exist. One writer expressed the fate of those Indians best when he wrote:

> The Karankaways are gone. Only bitter memories of them remain. In the minds of our people they are eternally damned, largely because they refused a culture we offered, resisting our proffered blessings to the last. [5]

Returning to Austin's Register of Families, we find an entry, numbered 126, which lists James Gilleland, age 30, Dianna, his wife, age 25, and their three children, two girls and a boy, who immigrated from Arkansas in 1828, and took the oath of allegiance in December 1829. [6] James' occupation is given as farmer, and from farming he would make his living. But the guiding force in James Gilleland's life was his abiding faith in the Lord and what he perceived as his calling, in preaching the word of God.

This religious fervor had its beginning in the Red River Settlements. The first wave of Methodist evangelism to reach northeast Texas and Louisiana occurred around the year 1820, and among the earliest Methodist missionaries who came to preach there was Henry Stephenson. Stephenson was acquainted with Nathaniel Moore, John Rabb, and other early settlers who came to Texas from Red River. About the time of his marriage to Dianna Moore, James Gilleland developed an intense interest in preaching, and though he would always make his living as a farmer, preaching the gospel, in the role of an exhorter, or lay minister, would become a lifelong avocation.

James Gilleland was a man known for his religious fervor, as evidenced by stories told by those who lived beside him in the wilderness that was then Texas. He was so resolute in his convictions, so one of these stories goes, that once, when his neighbors were helping him hoe his corn crop, he heard them cursing and sent them all away. It was said he still made a good crop, despite the weeds. [7]

476	[illegible] Smith	25	soltero				labrador	Alabama	año 1827
477	James Day (huerfano)	19	id				id	Luisiana	marzo 1829
478	Humphrey N Gore	34	id				id	id	Abril 1830
479	Daniel Gilleland	35	casado	2	2		id	Arkansas	Julio 1830
	Prisilla su muger	26							
480	Michael Scanlan	21	soltero				comerciante	Lª	Agosto 1830
481	John Bowman	50	casado	1	1		labrador	Arkansas	Agosto 1830
	Margaret su muger	29							
482	Patrick Dunn	25	soltero				marinero	Lª	Agosto 1829
483	B. A. Porter	25	id				labrador	Kentucky	marzo 1830
484	Thos. H Mays	27	id				id	Tennessee	mayo 1830
485	Michael Young	29	casado	2			id	Alabama	marzo 1830
	Rachael su muger	24							
486	A. J. James	25	soltero				id	id	" 1829
487	Jeremiah Dwyer	42	casado		1	2	id	Tennessee	Junio 1830
	Eliza su muger	25							
488	Jesse Wilson	39	id				id	Luisiana	mayo 1830
	Jane su muger	24							
489	Robt. Spears	22	huerfano				id	Alabama	marzo 1830
490	Anne White	30	viuda	4	1		id	id	abril 1830
491	James D Grey	30	casado	1	1		id	id	Febº 1830
	Serena su muger	25							
492	Daniel McDonald	31	id	2	1		id	Canadas	Agosto 1830
	Hannah su muger	28							
493	John H Scott	34	soltero				id	Alabama	año 1828
494	Ephraim Anderson	49	viudo	3	4	1	id	id	Avril 1830
495	Milton J Anderson	25	soltero				id	id	id
496	Henry Austin	50	casado						
497	John H Connell	30	casado				id	Pennsylvª	Sept 1830
	Matilda su muger	22							
498	Ira Strickland	30	soltero				id	Mississipi	abril 1830
499	Abraham Bob	32	id				id		
500	Philip Coonce	24	id				labrador	Louisiana	[illegible] 1828
501	William Laughlin		id					Kentucky	" 1828
502	John Morris	40	casado				labrador	Tenessee	" 1830
	Nancy su muger	32							
503	Franklin J Greenwood	26	casado				labrador	Arkansas	Octº 1830
	Mary Jane su muger	22							

Bastrop Methodist Church Marker, Bastrop, Texas

In the years leading up to the Texas Revolution all Austin's colonists were required, by Spain, then Mexico, to convert to the Roman-Catholic faith, in adherence to law. Many couples had their marriage rites performed by Padre Muldoon, or another of the few priests then living in Texas. The Mexican authorities, in actuality, did little, if anything, to enforce such laws and in the earliest days Austin's Colony was considered by those who visited there as a place whose inhabitants were, for the most part, not God-fearing people. One early historian suggested that the majority of Texans shook off their religion when they crossed the Sabine. [8]

When James and Dianna Gilleland settled at Mina (the site of Bastrop, a few years hence) in the early 1830's, James devoted much of his spare time to assisting those early Methodist circuit riders, like Raney and Whipple, who preached at camp meetings and in private homes. It was at Mina, in the spring of 1835, that James Gilleland organized what is now recognized as the First Methodist Congregation in Austin's Little Colony. That first service was held in an unfinished store belonging to Jesse Holderman, in defiance of Mexican law, which, it has been noted, did not officially recognize the Protestant faith. Members of that first small congregation included Mary (Polly) Christian, widow of the settler Thomas Christian (who had been murdered in 1833 when Josiah Wilbarger was scalped) and future wife of James Burleson, brother of General Edward Burleson, and Celie Craft, a Negro slave girl. [9] The action of that small group of worshippers, on a bright spring day in 1835, led by their lay preacher, was a powerful sign that men and women living on the frontier, in Mexican Texas, sought the comforts of their own faith. James Gilleland, a self-taught exhorter, preached that first sermon standing behind a barrel, which served as his pulpit. [10]

James Gilleland's brother Daniel, and his wife, Precilla, settled in present-day Austin County on their league of land along the Colorado River. Their family had been steadily growing, with the birth of a daughter, Amy, on January 11, 1834, named for Precilla's mother, Amy Boatwright. [11] Amy was probably born at Bay Prairie, Wharton County. On November 11, 1835, Daniel, Jr., was born, probably in Washington County. [12]

Life continued for the pioneer families with the birth of James and Dianna Gilleland's daughter Sarah, in 1835. [13] The aunt for whom she was named, Sarah (Gilleland) Kuykendall Kensie, gave birth to a daughter, Sarah Ann Kensie, about this same time. Sarah had married Peter Kensie, a carpenter, c.1833. Not long afterward, Sarah Gilleland Kuykendall Kensie was left a widow again when her husband, Peter, died, age 35. [14]

By 1835 the Gillelands, Williams, Kuykendalls, and Boatwrights had received land grants totaling almost 50,000 acres in Austin's First and Second Colonies. Daniel and members of his extended family farmed and raised cattle in Austin, Colorado, Wharton, Matagorda, Fayette, Madison, and Washington Counties. Like other members of the Old Three Hundred the Gillelands were constantly moving, always in search of a more favorable location, of richer soil, or better grazing lands for their livestock. Land was plentiful and there was an unlimited supply of timber for building houses, fences, and barns. Clearing the

forests and plowing the fields were one means of conquering the land, and they set to those tasks with a vengeance.

In those final days of 1835 there were rumblings of war with Mexico and fears for the safety of Austin's Colony. Stephen F. Austin had been arrested in Mexico, in January, 1834 and not freed until July 13, 1835. Embittered by his long, unjust imprisonment under General Santa Anna, Austin arrived in New Orleans in the fall of 1835 where he wrote a revealing letter to his cousin, Mary Austin Holley. In that letter he called for the rapid "Americanizing" of Texas, by immigrants from Kentucky, Tennessee, and other states, concluding:

> ...For fourteen years I have had a hard time of it, but nothing shall daunt my courage or abate my exertions to complete the main object of my labors to *Americanize* Texas. This fall and winter will fix our fate -- a great immigration will settle the question. [15]

Events unfolded now at a rapid pace. John Henry Moore, Commander of the Colorado Militia, met up with 200 Mexican troops under Captain Francisco Castéñeda, at Gonzales, early on the morning of October 2, 1835. Standing behind a six-pounder brass cannon, beneath a white flag bearing the image of a cannon and the defiant words "COME AND TAKE IT," Moore and his men fired a shot across the prairie, and after a small skirmish, the Mexican soldiers fled the "field of battle," retreating to San Antonio. [16]

While there is no evidence to show that Daniel or James Gilleland participated in the Gonzales stand-off, they were both living in the vicinity, and owing to his friendship with Colonel Moore, there is a strong possibility that Daniel might have been involved. Colonel Coleman, a neighbor of James Gilleland's from Bastrop, was present, as well, which could indicate his participation.

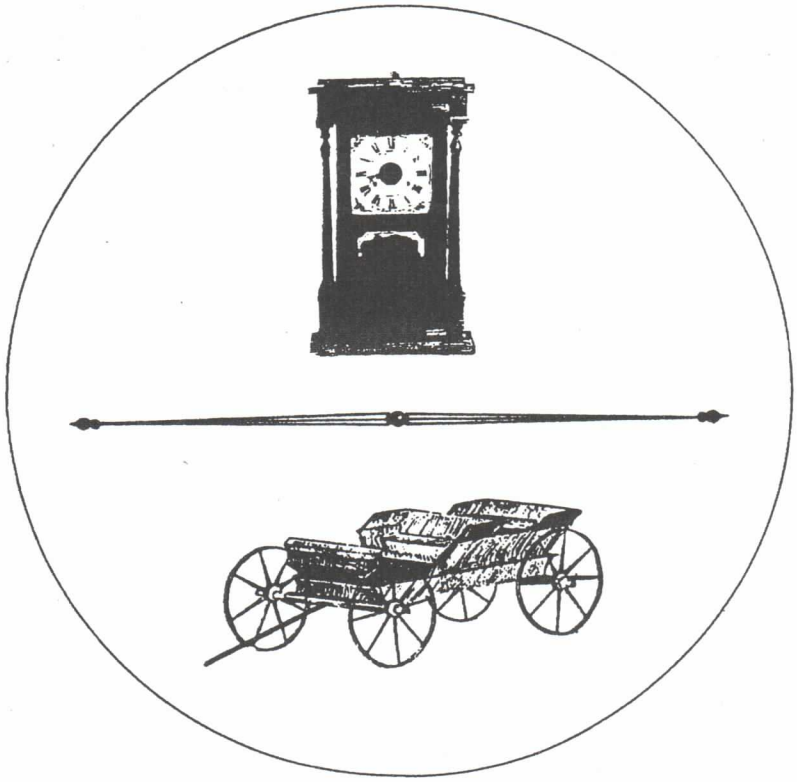
After Gonzales, Texas would never be the same. A broadside, printed at Brazoria, was sent out, bearing these words:

Freemen of Texas

TO ARMS!! TO ARMS!!
"Now's the day, and now's the hour!" [17]

The Texas Revolution had begun.

Chapter VI



"A Carriage and a Clock"

1836 ~ 1846

Daniel Gilleland ~ Mark a swallowfork in each ear ~ Brand DG ~ March 1st, 1836

from Registry of Brands
Washington County, Texas

When war broke out between Mexico and her Texas colonists Daniel Gilleland and family were living at Cole's Settlement, later known as Independence, located in Washington County. The early euphoria celebrated at Gonzales turned to uncertainty and fear with the fall of the Alamo, on March 6, 1836. Colonel William Barrett Travis, James Bonham, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, and roughly 150 other Texans lay dead amidst the smoldering ruins of the old Spanish mission. Following the massacre of Fannin and his men at Goliad, on Palm Sunday (March 27), 1836, just three weeks later, panic spread among Texans. General Sam Houston had retreated to the Brazos River, further adding to their fears. Settlers, some of them women and children, their husbands and fathers away with the army, took to the roads in wagons, on horseback, and on foot, hoping to reach the Sabine River and escape the fury of Santa Anna's army.

The Runaway Scrape, as it came to be known, was a terrible episode in the early history of Texas. Heavy rains had rendered most roads impassable and the rivers were running at flood level. Many people abandoned their belongings on the roadside or lost their possessions to looters who took advantage of the situation.

No description of the Runaway Scrape equals that given by Noah Smithwick, who wrote:

> The desolation of the country through which we passed beggars description. Houses were standing open, the beds unmade, the breakfast things still on the tables, pans of milk moulding in the dairies. There were cribs full of corn, smoke houses full of bacon, yards full of chickens that ran after us for food, nests of eggs in every fence corner, young corn and garden truck rejoicing in the mud, all abandoned. Forlorn dogs roamed around the deserted homes, their doleful howls adding to the general sense of desolation. Hungry cats ran mewing to meet us, rubbing their sides against our legs in token of welcome. Wagons were so scarce that it was impossible to remove household goods, many of the women and children, even, had to walk.
>
> And, as if the arch fiend had broken loose, there were men - or devils, rather - bent on plunder, galloping up behind the fugitives, telling them the Mexicans were just behind, thus causing the hapless victims to abandon what few valuables they had tried to save. There were broken-down wagons and household goods scattered all along the road. Stores with quite valuable stocks of goods stood open, the goods on the shelves, no attempt having been made to remove them.
>
> When we reached Cole's settlement we found a notice which Major Williamson had stuck on a tree, reporting the surrender and subsequent massacre of Fannin's men. We then understood the precipitate flight of the inhabitants, and realized the fate in store for us should we fall into the hands of the enemy. [1]

The Gillelands fled Cole's Settlement, joining several thousand Texans who were heading east. At Pleasant Farm Plantation the widowed Sarah Kuykendall Kensie and her children fled the advancing

Mexican Army. Mexican soldiers camped at Spanish Camp, some two miles east of Glen Flora, and looted and burned all the homes in the vicinity. [2]

The Battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836, turned what looked to be dismal defeat into a brilliant victory for Texas troops under General Sam Houston, and a spirit of confidence was felt throughout the settlements, as families returned to homes and farms abandoned a few short weeks before.

At Washington-on-the-Brazos, 59 delegates had met on March 2, 1836, to declare independence from Mexico, and the Republic of Texas was born. The day before, on March 1st, Daniel Gilleland registered his DG cattle brand, with swallow fork in each ear, in Washington County, at Cole's Settlement.[3] Events both momentous and routine filled the hours during those first uncertain days of the Republic of Texas.

In a deed dated June 2, 1836 between David Lawrence and Daniel Gilleland, Daniel received 2,399 1/2 acres of land in Washington County. Witnesses to this instrument were Jackson J. Hall and William Gladden Hall, members of a prominent local family. The District Judge for Washington County was James Hall. [4] On July 12, at Cole's Settlement, a payout order was made out to Daniel Gilleland for six dollars, in payment for a beef provided to Captain Scurlock's Company. [5]

No records have been found to indicate that Daniel Gilleland served in the Texas Army, but his brother James did serve in the Army of the Republic of Texas, under Captain Bailey Anderson, from July to October, 1836. [6] He received a bounty certificate for this service, which he would later sell to Isaac Decker, his neighbor on the Colorado, near Bastrop. [7]

Daniel and Precilla Gilleland and their growing family enjoyed a period of relative prosperity throughout the decade of the Republic. During the years they were living in Washington County the records reflect their position in the community. The year 1837 brought events both joyous and sad in the life of the Gilleland family. A son, their fifth, was born on January 20, 1837, and given the name James. [8] Sarah Gilleland, now 15 years old, married William Gladden Hall, in Washington County, on May 18, 1837. Theirs is one of the earliest marriage records on file in the county courthouse. [9] But tragedy struck in the summer of that year, when little Amy Gilleland, 3 1/2 years old, died. [10] The little girl was buried in the Cedar Creek-Chappell Hill area where the family was then living.

The year 1837 was also a notable one in the life of the Gillelands because of the profound influence of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the Texas frontier. The relationship between the Gillelands and the Methodist movement had its beginnings in the Red River settlements when Henry Stephenson, the first Methodist to preach in Texas, rode that circuit. While he did not take up the Bible like his brother James, Daniel Gilleland nevertheless was known to be a God-fearing man, one who worked hand in hand with the church from its first hesitant beginnings in the Austin Colony. For the rest of his life Daniel Gilleland would be associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Texas.

Robert Alexander, a missionary newly-arrived in Texas, preached at a camp meeting held at Caney Creek in the fall of 1837. After his sermon there were several conversions, followed by the creation of the first missionary society for the church in Texas. A list of subscribers was taken for the support of this work,

with a total pledge of $1,000.00. John Rabb was elected treasurer of this society, and a list of those who subscribed follows his name. These were people living in the vicinity of San Felipe in 1837 and the name of Daniel Gilleland can be found there. [11]

Dr. Martin Reuter, Superintendent of Texas Missions, arrived in Texas in 1837 and proceeded to visit all the settlements in Austin's Colony on horseback, during the winter of 1837-1838. In February of 1838 he came to the area which is now Fayette County and preached the first sermon in that region at the home of Daniel Gilleland, at John H. Moore's Fort. [12] The name of Gilleland and the work of Methodism were tied together in those early days of the Texas Republic.

On December 31, 1837, Sarah (Gilleland) Kuykendall Kensie married Thomas J. Tone, in Matagorda County. Thomas Tone, early settler, school teacher, and surveyor, would be Sarah's last husband. In a document filed February 22, 1840, in the town of Matagorda, Sarah Tone sought to settle the estate of her late husband, Robert H. Kuykendall, some ten years after his death. This document is notable both for the information it contains on the Kuykendall family and the administration of law during the Republic. According to this instrument:

> "the citizen and resident Sarah Gilleland, late wife of Robert Kuykendall, deceased, who died in this Republic and also the wife of Peter Kinsey [sic], deceased, and now wife of Thomas J. Tone of this County" asked the court to settle the Kuykendall estate. In her petition to the court, Sarah stated that "since the death of her late husband, the said Robert, deceased, one Abner Kuykendall and Joseph Kuykendall, brothers of the said Robert, deceased, administered on his succession at San Felipe de Austin in this Republic and sold all the stock of cattle and personal property and effects and have collected large sums of money due the said succession of Robert Kuykendall, deceased, but have never settled said administration, nor paid over the money they received and large sums was retained in their possession, over and above the amount necessary to pay the debts of said succession."

She went on to state that for and in consideration of Five Thousand Dollars to her paid, she had sold certain land, lots, property, and effects to the citizen Ira Randolph Lewis, of the Town of Matagorda. In this legal instrument Sarah (Gilleland) Kuykendall Kensie Tone gives the names of her six children, two of whom, Mary and Jane, are now married. The clerk states that "the said Sarah, not knowing how to write, signed by her mark." [13]

Sarah and Daniel's younger brother, James Gilleland, had, by 1838, secured a certificate for one labor of land from the Board of Land Commissioners of Bastrop County, followed by the grant of one league of land from the Republic of Texas. [14]

As his headright, Gilleland chose a creek in what is now eastern Travis County, but which then lay within the boundaries of Bastrop County. It was there, some 13 miles east of Austin, then the village of Waterloo, that he built his home on the south bank of the creek, a short distance from the Bastrop Road. That creek came to be known as Gilleland Creek and the homestead James Gilleland built there would be home to his family for many years to come. [15]

In February of 1839 a band of Comanche Indians attacked a settlement below Waterloo (Austin), killing Mrs. Robert Coleman (widow of a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence) and her son, Albert. The Indians also kidnapped Mrs. Coleman's young son, Thomas, and rode away, attacking next the home of Dr. Robertson, who lived nearby. There, they captured a number of the doctor's slaves and robbed his home. When news of this raid reached Bastrop a militia of sorts was raised to pursue the Comanches. Among those who joined this settlers' militia was James Gilleland. The company gave chase to the Indians, catching up with them at Brushy Creek the following afternoon. The so-called Battle of Brushy, which ensued, was actually only a small skirmish, during which the settlers, eventually under the command of General Edward Burleson, engaged the Comanches in a fight which lasted until nightfall, with casualties on both sides. Those killed in the fight were young Jacob Burleson, the general's brother, who led the initial charge, and Jack Walters. Edward Blakey, with a fatal head wound, was carried home, where he died the next evening. James Gilleland was also gravely wounded, having been shot between the shoulder and neck, the musket ball going through his lungs. He was placed on a litter and carried to his house on Gilleland Creek, where his family awaited news of the fight. [16]

James Gilleland lived for ten days after the Battle of Brushy Creek. Cared for by his wife, he dictated his Last Will and Testament, which was witnessed on February 21st. He appointed Dianna as his executrix and made provisions for her and their children. He died on February 27, 1839, age 40, and was buried on a gentle rise not far from his home. This spot would become the Gilleland family cemetery, close to the creek which bears James' name. [17]

The death of James Gilleland robbed the settlers along the Colorado of one of their best men. He left, besides his wife, five daughters, Rebecca Ann, Nancy Dianna, Sarah Elizabeth, Dianna Melissa, and James Emeline, and one son, Nathaniel Moore. Dianna (Moore) Gilleland, then 33 years old, would never remarry. Dianna was, by all accounts, a most remarkable woman, even among pioneer women who exhibited courage and resilience on a day-to-day basis. She was the first woman to register a cattle brand in Travis County, and the Tax List for that county, in 1840, shows Dianna Gilleland holding over 2,000 acres of land, under clear title, in her own name, two slaves, and thirty head of cattle. [18] She was known to be living in the Moore Settlement, not far from Gilleland Creek, in the winter of 1842, when Bishop Thomas A. Morris paid her a call. In his diary he tells of riding out from Austin to visit Dianna Gilleland:

> Feb. 13. Made some calls in town, and rode to Sister Gilleland's in the Moore Settlement 13 or 14 miles. I have but five members in Austin, and that is very discouraging. [19]

One year later Rebecca Ann Gilleland, eldest daughter of James and Dianna Gilleland, married Samuel Pearce Burt, the local school teacher, on February 15, 1843. [20] This wedding and a humorous anecdote related to the ceremony, is described by Noah Smithwick, in Recollection of Old Texas Days. As Smithwick tells it:

Board of Land Commissioners for Washington County

It is hereby Certified that Mr. Stephen R. Roberts (president) James W. Smith and Jesse Bartlett (Associates) Commissioners of Said Board for the County aforesaid do Certify that Daniel Gilleland presented himself to us on this day the Seventeenth of January 1838 and proved to our Satisfaction that he is entitled under the Constitution and Law of Texas to One Lakon of Land that he emigrated to Texas as early as Eighteen Hundred and thirty two (1832) that he was a Citizen at the date of the declaration of Independence that he is a married man and has remained in the Country with his family ever since — He has previously received One Lagoon of Land — Issued 1st Feby. 1838

Attest
Prosper Hope
Clk.

Stephen R Roberts, President
Jesse Bartlett
J. W. Smith
Associate Comrs

1838 Headright Certificate, Daniel Gilleland, Washington County, Texas

~~No [illegible]~~

This is to certify that James Gilleland has appeared before us the Board of Land Commissioners for the County of Bastrop and proved according to Law that he arrived in this Country in December one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight and he is the head of a family and entitled to one Labor of Land upon the condition of paying at the rate of three dollars and fifty cents for each Labor of Irrigable Land two dollars and fifty cents for each Labor of temporal or arable Land and one dollar and twenty cents for each Labor of pasture Land which may be contained in the survey secured to him by this Certificate

Given under our hands this the 2nd day of Feby 1838

J. B. Patton Pres.
Jos. Willarger ass. com
Moses Gage ass. com

Attest
R. B. Craft Clk

1838 Headright Certificate, James Gilleland, Bastrop County

During the time that I was postmaster we were accorded a precinct and notwithstanding the constitution limited the number of offices of trust or profit, one man might hold at a time to one, as neither the office of postmaster nor justice of the peace came within the scope of the provision, I was elected justice. I told my friends that I was not selfishly inclined and had no desire to monopolize the offices and therefore declined to qualify till our pedagogue took me aside and entreated me as a special favor to himself to reconsider my determination, as he was intending to get married and there was no one in the vicinity qualified to perform the ceremony. To accommodate Birt [sic] I qualified; my first official act being the solemnization of the marriage between himself and Miss Gilleland, a daughter of the Rev. James Gilleland, who was killed by Indians in the battle of Brushy Creek.

Birt was so near sighted that he could not distinguish one person from another across the room, and the bride, though quite a pretty girl, had the misfortune to be so lame as to necessitate the use of crutches. At the appointed time I was on hand, and, it being my first appearance in that role, I took Jim Dodd along to brace me up. Birt was stopping at Captain Grumble's, and, having only leather breeches and but one pair at that, he hired a negro to wash them after he retired on the eve of the wedding. Not being dry by morning, Birt drew them on and stood before the fire to dry them, a process which "set" them to perfection, but when he tried to sit down he couldn't make it; so he had to wet them again and sit while he dried them, consequently, when the thump of the bride's crutches on the floor of the inner room announced the approach of the bridal party, the first object that met the expectant eyes turned to the door, was the knees of the bridegroom's pantaloons performing the part of ushers as it were. Captain Grumble said he didn't "see how in thunder he ever got out of them." Dodd, in reporting the wedding to my wife, characterized it as the marriage of the halt and blind. [21]

Sadly, Rebecca Gilleland Burt would die, as a result of childbirth, on December 30, 1843. Her child, given the name Frederick, was born Christmas Day, 1843, and lived until August, 1844. [22]

Additional deed records on file in Washington County go further in depicting the life of Daniel and Precilla Gilleland in the late 1830's and early 1840's. An instrument dated May 7, 1838, records the sale of a Negro woman, named Martha, to Daniel Gilleland. Her former owner, Allen Ingram, states that she is about 25 years of age and warrants that her health is good, except for rheumatism, of which "she is now complaining." Daniel purchased this slave for $650, a considerable sum in those days. [23]

A contract drawn up between Archilus Nunley and Daniel Gilleland called for the latter to clear title and survey a league of land belonging to Nunley, in return for 1,000 acres of land from that league. This contract, dated 1838, would result in litigation some ten years later between Daniel Gilleland and the heirs of Archilus Nunley. [24] Also, in 1838, the Board of Land Commissioners for Washington County approved the grant of one labor of land to Daniel Gilleland, who appeared before them for that purpose. [25]

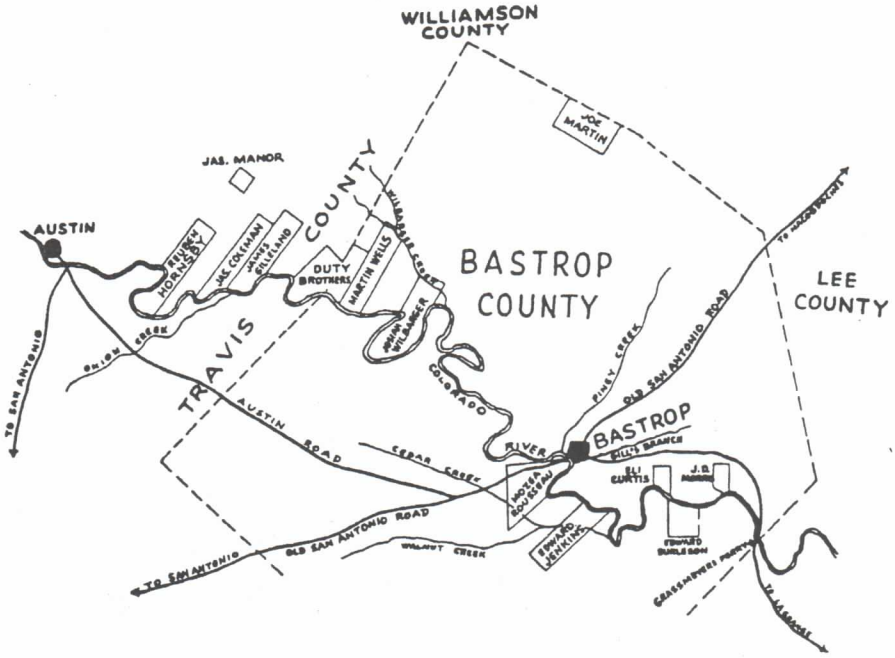
Amy Boatwright, Precilla's mother, had died c. 1839 in Washington County, where other members of her family had settled. [26] Amy, who returned to Austin's Colony from Arkansas in 1833, received a league of land in her own name, in Madison County, dated October 24, 1835. [27] Precilla's brothers, Friend, Richard, and Thomas Boatwright, Jr., each received land grants of one league, in various counties, also in October, 1835. [28] Thomas Boatwright, Jr., whose league was situated below that of John Crownover (not far from present-day Madisonville) killed a man by the name of John Loyd on February 24, 1839, and fled Texas for Arkansas. [29] The truth of this incident will never be known, but tradition has it that Boatwright

and Loyd engaged in a shooting match on a bridge. Boatwright family tradition also has it that Thomas Boatwright, Jr., was later granted a pardon by Governor Sam Houston. [30]

Washington County Tax Rolls for 1840 show Daniel Gileland (sic) as having clear title to 500 acres of land and owning 6 slaves, 1 horse, 10 head of cattle, a carriage, and a clock. [31] It is interesting to note that Daniel, like so many of his neighbors, lists fewer head of cattle than he actually owned. The census, taken that same year, shows 6 horses and more than 250 head of cattle. The Gillelands were living in the Chappell Hill community at the time of the 1840 census. [32] A son, Felix Gilleland, was born in May of 1841, but died an infant in August of that year. [33]

Daniel Gilleland and R.W. Chappell are listed as trustees of the Cedar Creek Methodist Episcopal Church and Camp Grounds, in a deed filed in the spring of 1843, whereby Jane Beauchamp deeded a parcel of land for the church. [34] But, by October of that same year, Daniel Gilleland had given his power of attorney to William G. Hall, his son-in-law, and gave his place of residence as Harrison County. Hall was empowered to act on behalf of Gilleland in conducting all his business in Washington County, the Republic of Texas, and Montgomery County. [35]

For several years the family lived in Harrison County, moving their herd of cattle to seasonal grazing grounds, before settling in Montgomery County in about 1845. A son, Alexander M. Gilleland, was born December 19, 1844, and on January 21, 1845, Nancy Gilleland, daughter of Daniel and Precilla, married John Anders in Montgomery County. The marriage of Mary Gilleland and Stephen T. Slater took place on November 13th of that same year. [36] President Polk, on December 29, 1845, affixed his signature to the document granting statehood to Texas. Gone was the Republic of Texas. With the raising of the stars and stripes in Austin, on February 19, 1846, the State of Texas was born.



Daniel and Precilla Gilleland's Clock

Chapter VII

"Home on Gabriel River"

1846 ~ 1861

"...The first legislature met on the 16th of February, 1846, and three days later the curtain fell on the last, in many respects, the most touching scene in the brief drama of the republic, when Anson Jones, its last president, standing on the steps of the old capitol, lowered the old flag from the mast and reverently unfurling it, announced amidst breathless silence, 'the republic of Texas is no more.' Many a head was bowed, many a broad chest heaved, and many a manly cheek was wet with tears when that broad field of blue in the center of which, like a signal light, glowed the lone star, emblem of the sovereignty of Texas, was furled and laid away among the relics of the dead republic."

Noah Smithwick

Recollections of Old Texas Days

Milam County in the late 1840's was still a wild and unsettled place. The ruins of the ill-fated Spanish mission, San Francisco Xavier de los Dolores, attested to the complete failure of Spain to colonize the Territory in the name of the church. Since the middle of the 18th Century the only real inhabitants of the region were small groups of Tonkawa Indians and herds of mustangs and other wild horses, ranging along the San Gabriel River. The Comanches still made occasional forays in the area, and there were several massacres of settlers and Indian fights during the 1830's and early 1840's. The county, named after Texas hero Ben Milam, was still very much a part of the frontier. It was here, around the year 1847, that Daniel and Precilla Gilleland and their ten children settled. For the elder Gillelands there would be no more wandering. After twenty eight years of married life they had finally found a place to call home.

Precilla's last child, Felix Grundy Gilleland, was born on April 20, 1846, just a few months after Texas entered the Union. [1] In October of that year Daniel Gilleland sold his labor in Washington County, which he had received almost nine years earlier, to Jacob de Cordova, early Texas land agent and mapmaker. [2]

The 1847 Tax Roll for Milam County shows Daniel Gilleland and family, 5 slaves and 4 horses. In addition, there is an assessment for land lying outside of Milam County -- namely, two tracts of land in Montgomery County. [3] During the late 1840's the Gillelands were farming and raising cattle in several counties, but Milam County was considered their place of residence. The case of Daniel Gilleland vs. the Estate of Archilus Nunley was settled in favor of Daniel Gilleland, in 1848, and he was awarded 1,000 acres out of the Nunley Survey, located in Montgomery County. That survey is now within the boundaries of Madison County. [4]

Thomas Gilleland, second son of Daniel and Precilla, died unmarried at age 22, and was buried on land acquired by Daniel Gilleland, lying along the San Gabriel River in Milam County. This burial was the first in what would become the Gilleland family cemetery. [5] The deed records kept at that time were destroyed when the county courthouse burned in 1874, but the records that do survive refer to several leagues of land. Deed records do indicate that Daniel Gilleland purchased land from the heirs of Nestor Clay in November of 1850. [6] The 1850 Census for the Milam-Williamson District lists Daniel, Prissilla (sic), William, John, Daniel, Jr., James, Alexander, and Felix, all residing in the same house. Daniel's occupation is given as farmer, his birthplace, Virginia. His age is given as 55 and Precilla's as 46, with place of birth, Illinois. Their sons range in age from 25 (William) to 4 (Felix). The Slave Schedule, attached to the same census, list 2 female slaves, one of those a mulatto, and three males, age 12 and under. [7]

The rich farmland along the San Gabriel, "blackland" to the settlers and generations of those that followed, produced bountiful crops of cotton and corn. There, Daniel built a house of hewn timber, on a

The State of Texas
County of Montgomery

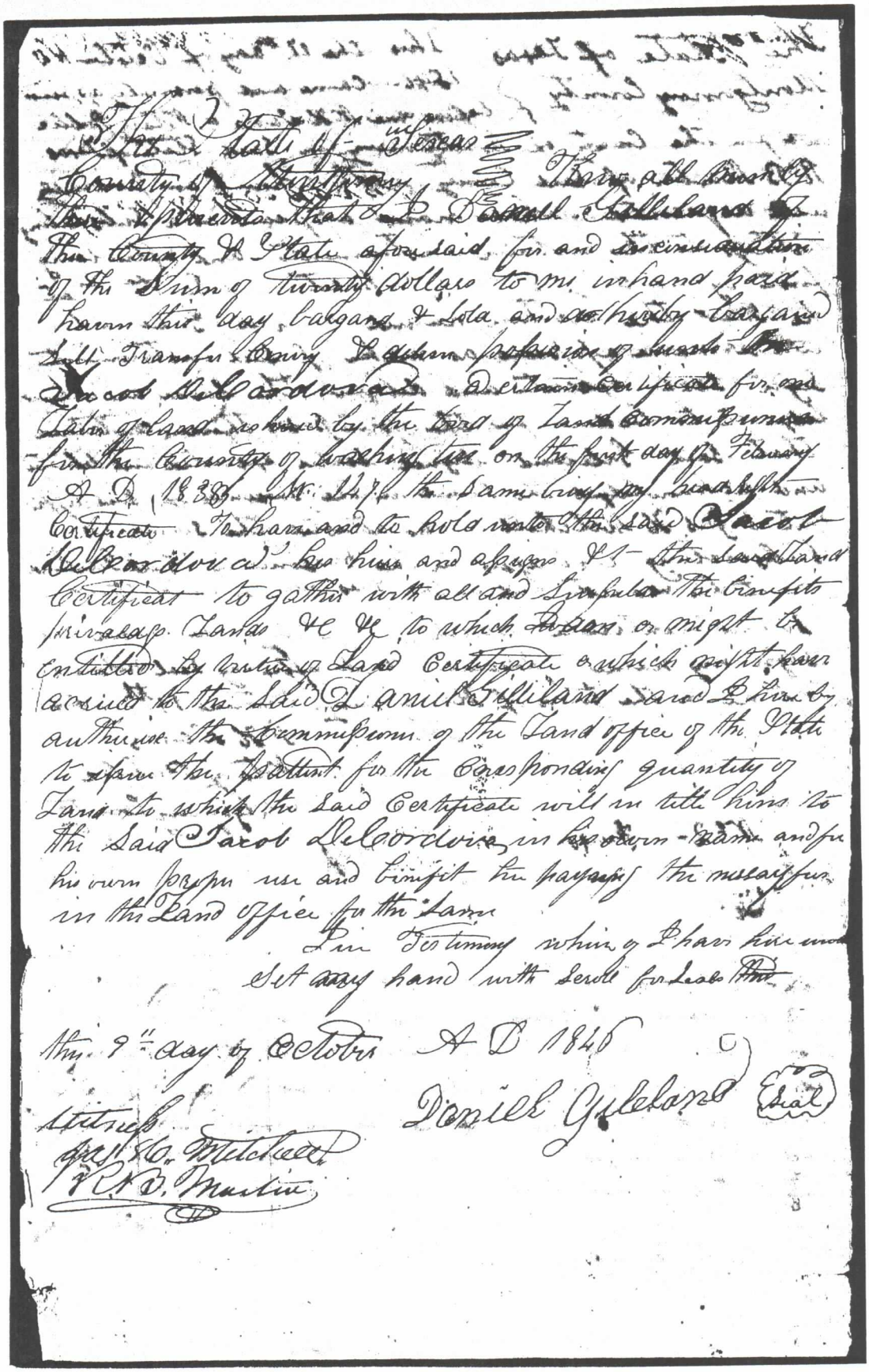
Know all men by these presents that I Daniel Gilleland of the County & State aforesaid for and in consideration of the sum of twenty dollars to me in hand paid haven this day bargaind & sold and do hereby bargaind sell Transfer Convey & deliver possession of unto the Jacob DeCordova a certain Certificate for one Labor of land issued by the Board of Land Commissioners for the County of Washington on the first day of February A D 1838 No. 147 the same being my headright Certificate To have and to hold unto the said Jacob DeCordova his heirs and assigns &c the said Land Certificate to gather with all and singular the benefits privaledge Lands &c &c to which Lands or might be entitled by virtue of Land Certificate or which might have accrued to the said Daniel Gilleland and I hereby authorise the Commissioner of the Land office of the State to issue the Patent for the Corresponding quantity of Land to which the said Certificate will in title him to the said Jacob DeCordova in his own name and for his own proper use and benefit he paying the necessary fees in the Land office for the same

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand with scroll for seals this

this 9th day of October A D 1846

Daniel Gilleland (Seal)

Witness
Jas. H. Mitchell
R. N. D. Martin



1846 Deed, Montgomery County Texas
Daniel Gilleland to Jacob De Cordova

rise about 200 yards from the river. This house was a story and a half, with several rooms on the ground floor, the upstairs loft reserved for sleeping, and a fireplace at one end of the house for warmth. A kitchen stood a short distance back from the house, separated from the main structure as a precaution against fire. Near this outdoor kitchen were a smokehouse and a well.

Felix Gilleland, who as a boy grew up in that house, would tell his children of times when he would watch, from the upper story of the Gilleland house, Tonkawa Indians moving along the banks of the river, several hundred yards away. [8] In those days the area around the house would have been cleared of trees, and open fields and pastures would have offered a clear view of the San Gabriel.

Precilla Gilleland would have tended to her cooking and chores with the help of the Negro slave, Martha, and others. When not planting or harvesting his crops, Daniel, now in his early fifties, and his older sons, William, John, Daniel, Jr., and James, would have hunted in the woods and fields near the river, accompanied by their dogs, for deer, squirrels, raccoons, possums, rabbits, and other game. The younger boys, Alexander and Felix, would have been placed in the care of a Negro nursemaid, or Precilla, if she was caught up on her household work .

Sundays were church days for the family and traveling to and from the neighboring Methodist church would have involved a buggy ride of some miles. Occasional camp meetings would be held at San Andres, or "San Anders," as the settlers came to call the district. The children would have received whatever schooling was offered in reading from spelling books or in Bible lessons.

The decade between 1850 and 1860 brought many changes in the lives of the Gillelands. William Gilleland married Rachel Allen, the daughter of Moses Allen, in Milam County, on December 3, 1851. [9] In January of the following year Mary Gilleland Slater died from complications due to childbirth and was buried in the family graveyard on the San Gabriel farm. Daniel Gilleland, Jr. married Emily Allen, a sister to Rachel, on July 26, 1854, and John Henry Gilleland married Martha Ann Sanford on October 18, 1855. [10] In her obituary, written in 1900, mention is made of Martha Gilleland's conversion to Methodism at a camp meeting held at the San Andres Campground in 1856. [11] This is further evidence that the Gillelands, headed by Daniel, Sr., maintained their ties to that denomination, after settling permanently in Milam County.

Sarah Gilleland Kuykendall Kensie Tone, sister of Daniel Gilleland, died on October 30, 1857, in Matagorda County and was buried at Deming's Bridge. [12] Nancy Gilleland Williams had died a few years earlier in Travis County, and was buried in the Moore Family Cemetery. [13] The Milam County Census of 1860 shows Daniel, Precilla, James, Alexander, and Felix, all dwelling in the same house, now listed in the San Gabriel Community. [14]

In the late 1850's Daniel Gilleland acquired a large, black-bound Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments. The family record pages were filled out in a beautiful, flowing script, telling us most of what we know about Daniel and Precilla and their children. Those entries begin with the marriage of Daniel

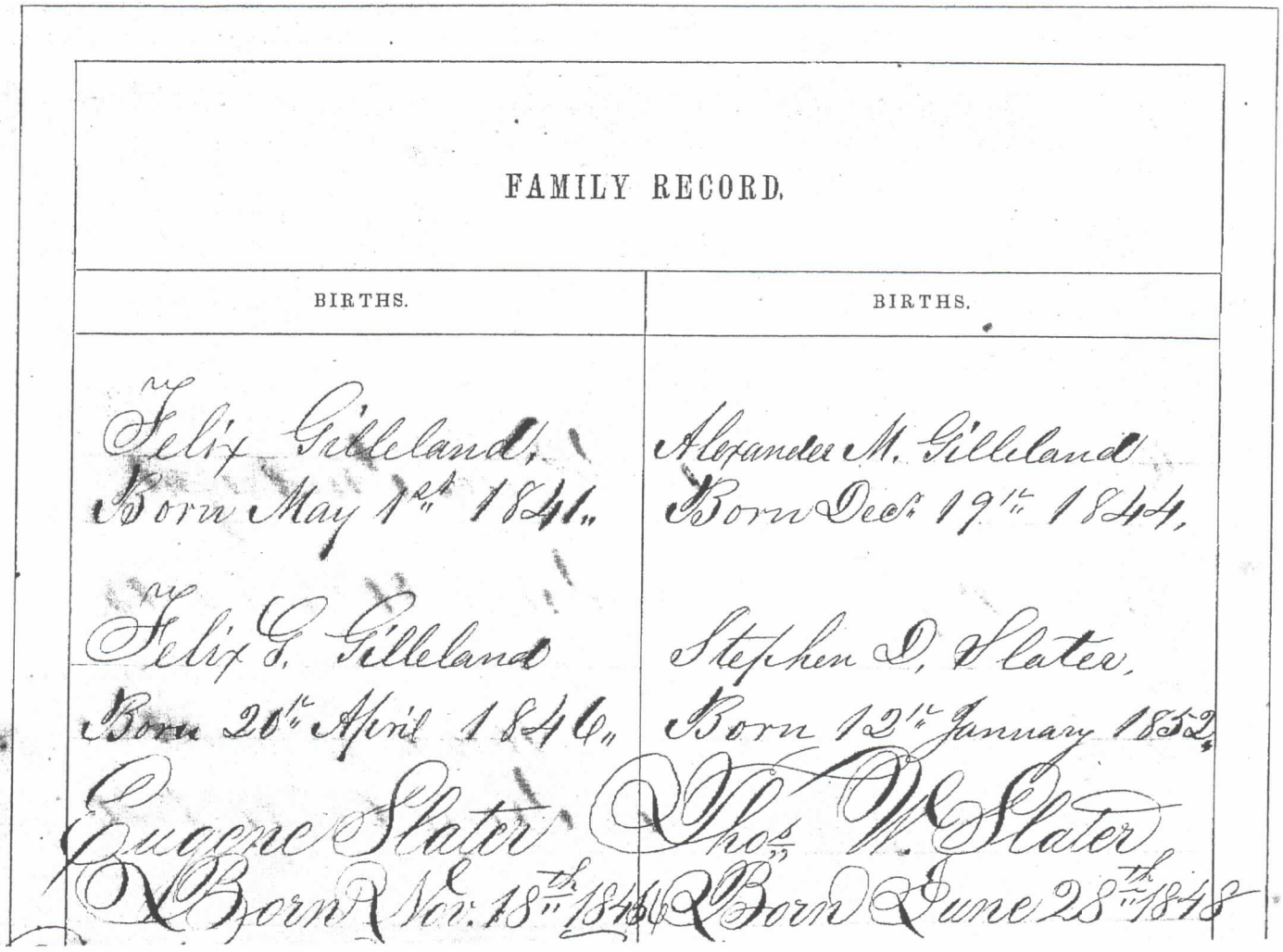
DIED
Oct. 30. 1857.

William Gilleland, c.1850

Gilleland and Precilla Boatwright in 1819, and end with the marriage of Daniel Gilleland, Jr. and Emily Allen, in 1854. No more entries would be made on these pages until the year 1872. [15]

By 1860 war clouds were gathering across the United States, with Southern states threatening to secede from the Union if Abraham Lincoln was elected President. At stake were state's rights, the institution of slavery, and the preservation of the Union. On farms across the South and in Texas the conversation was dominated by talk of secession and war. The majority of Texans were arguing for joining the Confederacy and dreamed of a war with the North that would last, at the longest, six weeks. A popular boast was heard that "one Southerner could whip six Yankees." There was something glorious about riding into battle to defend one's honor and state sovereignty.

Perhaps the Gilleland sons engaged in such boasts and dreamed of a brief and glorious war against the North. In 1861 there were five of them of fighting age, two of them full of the exuberance and impulsiveness of youth. For those two, Daniel Jr. and James, there was no fear but that the war would be over before they got their chance to fight.



FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.	BIRTHS.
Felix Gilleland, Born May 1st 1841.	Alexander M. Gilleland Born Dec. 19th 1844.
Felix G. Gilleland Born 20th April 1846.	Stephen D. Slater, Born 12th January 1852.
Eugene Slater Born Nov. 18th 1846	Thos. W. Slater Born June 28th 1848

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.	BIRTHS.
Daniel Gilleland Borned 9th June 1795	Precilla Boutright, Born 20th June 1803.
Lewis Gilleland Was borned 7th Feby 1820	Sarah Gilleland Born Oct. 17th 1821.
William Gilleland Born Oct. 25th 1823.	Thomas Gilleland Born 3rd January 1825.
Mary Gilleland Born January 23rd 1827.	Nancy Gilleland Born 19th January 1829.
John Gilleland. Born 16th January 1831.	Daniel Gilleland Jr. Born 11th Nov. 1835.
James Gilleland Born 20th January 1837.	Amy Gilleland Born 11th January 1834.

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.	MARRIAGES.
Daniel Gilleland &	Precilla Bougright
Were Married	3rd February 1819
In Meir County	Arkansas, Territory
Mr Gilleland &	Rachel E Allen
Were Married	Dec 3rd 1851

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.	MARRIAGES.
John Anders and Nancy Gilleland Were Married 21st January 1845. In Montgomery County Texas.	
Wm G. Hall and Sarah Gilleland Were Married 18th May 1837. In Washington County Texas.	
Daniel Gilleland Jr and Emily Allen. Were Married 26th July 1834. In Milam County Texas.	
Stephen T. Slater and Mary Gilleland Were Married 13th November 1843. In Montgomery County Texas.	
H. M. Gilleland and Martha L. Rogers Were Married June 4th 1872.	

Chapter VIII

"Just Before the Battle, Mother"

1861 ~ 1865

"...This brilliant victory, which next to Heaven, we owe to the heroic endurance and unfaltering courage of our volunteer soldiers, was not won without loss. Of the regiment which I have the honor to command there were 8 killed and 56 wounded, 2 of which were mortal."

from the report of Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Scurry
4th Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers

Val Verde, New Mexico, February 22, 1862

Lincoln was elected President on November 8, 1860. On February 1, 1861, the Texas Legislature passed an ordinance of secession and, after a popular referendum, Texas seceded from the Union on March 2, 1861. Governor Sam Houston, who ardently opposed secession, was removed from office on March 6th and Fort Sumter was fired upon on April 12th. The War Between the States was begun.

By the summer of 1861 the Texas coast had been placed under a Federal naval blockade, forcing export of cotton, the state's number one crop, through Mexico to reach European markets. In August, Colonel John R. Baylor, in command of the Confederacy's western frontier, established the Confederate Territory of Arizona and was declared its governor. Federal garrisons had abandoned forts throughout Texas and the Butterfield stagecoach route leading from San Antonio to El Paso was entirely in Southern hands.

With the momentum of secession in full swing and Southern enthusiasm at a fever pitch, many men took advantage of the situation in hope of furthering their own military or political careers. Among these was one Henry Hopkins Sibley, who had served until that time as a Union officer in New Mexico Territory. After resigning his commission Sibley made his way to Richmond, Virginia, where he met with President Jefferson Davis and proposed a bold plan to capture New Mexico for the Confederacy. Sibley's scheme called for the recruitment of a large mounted force of Texas volunteers who would make for New Mexico, defeat the federal forces along the Rio Grande and thereby secure the territory for the South. His plan did not stop there, however, for after taking New Mexico, he would move on to Colorado Territory to confiscate the rich gold and silver mines there. Sibley's dream also included a rapid movement through Utah and on to California, where the wealth from gold mines in that state would be used to defeat the North, and her Pacific ports used to accommodate the Confederate Navy.

This dream, or fantasy, as some would call it, had a number of serious defects, not the least of which was the mistaken belief that a force such as that envisioned by Sibley could live off the land, so far removed from its base of operations, and in the inhospitable terrain of southern New Mexico. Nevertheless, Sibley left Richmond with the rank of Brigadier General, bound for San Antonio, where he arrived on August 12, 1861. [1]

In Milam County war fever had reached its height in the summer of 1861. The honor of Texas was at stake and young men rushed to enlist in the army. Charles Marion Lesueur, Milam County Commissioner and former member of the Texas House of Representatives, had been elected a delegate to the Secession Convention, held in January of 1861. Elected to the Ninth Texas Legislature, representing Milam and Williamson Counties, Lesueur resigned his office and set about recruiting a company of soldiers. His San Anders Light Horse Company was formed on September 7th, in Milam County. [2]

Joining Lesueur's Company were Daniel Gilleland, Jr., with the rank of Private, James Gilleland, Fourth Sergeant, and John Anders, Second Sergeant. [3]

From Milam County the newly recruited soldiers rode to San Antonio, where they were mustered into service at Camp Sibley, outside the city, on September 16th. The San Anders Light Horse Company was then absorbed into the Fourth Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers, as Company D. [4] According to company records Daniel Gilleland, Jr. was mustered in with one horse valued at $150.00 and $20.00 worth of equipment. James Gilleland was also riding a horse valued at $150.00. [5]

The 4th Regiment was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William R. Scurry, described by one of his men as "the best officer, most polished gentleman, most sociable gentleman, and the most popular Colonel in the whole outfit." Scurry was a hero of the Mexican War and would earn the everlasting devotion of his men in the battles to come. General Sibley, on the other hand, despite his aspirations of glory and dreams of a Confederate West, was a drunkard who managed to avoid actually commanding any of the battles in which his troops engaged Union forces in New Mexico. His "illness," as he described it, confined him to his tent or ambulance, and on more than one occasion he was forced to relinquish command to a junior officer. While rumors about Sibley ran rampant among troops in the 4th Texas Mounted Regiment, spirits were high as some 2,500 men rode west out of San Antonio. [6]

Traveling west along the stage route Sibley's army passed through the towns of Uvalde, Howard's Spring, Fort Davis, Eagle Springs, and San Elizario, reaching Fort Bliss, near El Paso, around Christmas Day, 1861. General Sibley, arriving in Fort Bliss on December 14th, assumed command of all Confederate forces in the region and chose to call his expeditionary force "the Army of New Mexico." His combined troop strength now numbered some 3,200 men. Sibley directed his army to move north along the Rio Grande in the direction of Fort Craig, a Union stronghold under the command of Colonel E.R.S. Canby. Canby, with some 3,800 men, was prepared for the Confederate force.

By February 19th, Sibley's army was in the immediate vicinity of Fort Craig, with the intention of drawing Canby's force out of their defensible position and into the open by fording the river in full view of the fort. Near the town of Val Verde (Green Valley), the forces of North and South would meet on the morning of February 21, 1862. In his official report, written the following day, Lieutenant Colonel Scurry described the battle to his superiors:

Report of Lieut. Col. William R. Scurry, Fourth Texas Cavalry

> Major: Early on the morning of yesterday, while the army was encamped on the east side of the Rio Grande, opposite Fort Craig, I received orders to march with my command, Fourth Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers, and take possession at as early an hour as practicable of some point on the river above Fort Craig at which water might be obtained. By 8 o'clock the regiment took up the line of march, accompanied by Capt. George M. Frazier, of Major Pyron's battalion, with his company acting as guide for the command. Supposing that we were the advance of the army, to prevent surprise I ordered Major H. W. Ragnet to take the advance, with four companies and Captain Frazier's company, throwing out at the same time front and flank patrols. In a short time, I learned that Major Pyron, with 180 men, was in our advance. Aware of the great vigilance of that active officer, I recalled Major Ragnet

and reunited the regiment. A report was received from Major Pyron that the road was clear of the enemy and the river in sight; but in a short time a second message was received, through Capt. John Phillips, from the major, informing me that large masses of the enemy were in his front and threatening an attack. As his force was but small, I was fearful that he would be overpowered before we could reach him, and accordingly pushed forward, guided by Captain Phillips, as rapidly as our horses could carry us, to his relief, and found him valiantly maintaining a most unequal contest against vastly superior numbers. Dismounting my command, we formed on his right and joined in the conflict. For near two hours we held our position in front of an enemy now known to be near 5,000 strong, while our own forces were not over 700 in number. Immediately upon reaching the field Captain Frazier joined the command to which he belonged, where he did good service during the remainder of the day.

Upon opening fire with the light howitzer battery, under Lieut. John Riley, it was found to be ineffectual against the heavier metal of the enemy. It was therefore ordered to cease firing and be withdrawn under cover.

At about 1 o'clock Captain Teel, with two guns of his battery, reached the ground. Being placed in position on our right he opened a galling fire upon the left flank of the enemy, whereupon the enemy commenced a furious cannonade upon him from their entire battery, consisting of eight guns. So heavy was their fire that the captain soon found himself with but five men to work the two guns. A bomb exploding under his pieces had set the grass on fire; still, this gallant officer held his position and continued his firing upon the enemy, himself seizing the rammer and assisting to load the piece.

Seeing his situation, I ordered Lieutenant Riley, with his command, to join him and assist in the efficient working of the guns. During the balance of the day this brave little band performed the duty assigned them. Judging by the heavy firing on the left that Major Pyron was hard pressed, Captain Teel, with more of his guns, which had just reached the ground, was dispatched to his relief. Major Ragnet, with four companies of the regiment, was ordered to maintain our position there. I remained on the right with the balance of my command and two pieces of Teel's battery, under Lieut. J.H. McGinnis, to hold in check the enemy, who were moving in large force in that direction to turn our flank. About this time Major Lockridge, of the Fifth Regiment, arrived on the field and reported himself with a portion of that command. He was ordered to join our troops on the left. During all this time the fire of the enemy had been extremely heavy, while, owing to the shorter range of most of our guns, our fire was reserved until they should approach sufficiently near our position to come within range of our arms, when they were invariably repulsed with loss. Soon after the arrival of Major Lockridge, Colonel Green reached the field and assumed command.

At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in extending our line to prevent the enemy from turning our right, I found myself with only two companies, Captain [William P.] Hardeman's and [James M.] Crosson's, opposed to a force numbering some 400 men, the other four companies being several hundred yards to my left. It was there that that daring charge was made by Captain Lang, of the Fifth Regiment, with a small body of lancers. But desperate courage was ineffectual against great odds and superior arms, and this company there sustained the greatest loss of life of any company of the brigade. This charge, otherwise unfortunate, had the effect of bringing the enemy within range of our guns, when the two pieces of Captain Teel's battery and the small arms of Captains Hardeman's and Crosson's companies opened an effective fire upon them, before which they rapidly retreated with considerable loss. Just before sunset Lieut. Thomas P. Ochiltree, of General Sibley's staff, brought an order to prepare for a charge along the line.

All prepared for its prompt execution, and when the words "Up boys, and at them!" were given, straight at their battery of six guns supported by columns of infantry and cavalry, some 700 yards in front of our position, went our brave volunteers, unmindful of the driving storm of grape and canister and musket balls sent hurling around them. With yells

Photo by Ina Sizer Cassidy
Courtesy Museum of New Mexico

and ringing shouts they dashed on and on, until the guns were won and the enemy in full retreat before them. After carrying the battery, their guns were turned upon themselves, Captains Hardeman and Walker manning those on the right. Lieutenant Ragnet, of Riley's battery, being on the ground, I placed one gun in his charge, manning it with such of the men as were nearest. The rammer being gone, a flag-staff was used in its stead. Captain Teel coming up, an effective fire was kept up as long as the enemy was in reach. In the meantime a most timely and gallant charge was made by Major Ragnet from our left, thus effecting a favorable diversion at the moment of our charge upon their battery. This charge by Major Ragnet and his company was characterized by desperate valor.

In the last brilliant and successful charge, which decided the fortunes of the day, there were six companies of the Fourth Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers, under their respective captains, Hardeman, Crosson, [Charles M.] Lesueur, [W.W.] Foard, [George J.] Hampton, and [D.A.] Nunn. Besides those, I saw Captains [John S.] Shropshire, [J.G.] Killough, and [H.A.] McPhaill, of the Fifth Regiment, and Captain Walker, of Major Pyron's battalion.

The brave and lamented Major Lockridge, of the Fifth Regiment, fell almost at the muzzle of the enemy's guns.

Major Pyron was also in the thickest of the fray, and contributed much by his example to the success of the charge, as did also Lieutenant Ochiltree, of the general's staff.

There were others there whom I now regret my inability to name. Where all, both officers and men, behaved so well it is impossible to say who is the most deserving of praise. The enemy retired across the river, and were in full retreat when Major Ragnet, Captains Shannon, Adair, [W.L.] Alexander, [Charles] Buckholts, and Lieut. A.S. Thurmond reached the field with their companies, mounted. I asked and obtained permission from Colonel Green to cross the river with these companies to pursue the flying foe.

When the head of the column reached the opposite shore we were ordered to return. Night closed in on the hard-won field of Valverde. This brilliant victory, which, next to Heaven, we owe to the heroic endurance and unfaltering courage of our volunteer soldiers, was not won without loss. Of the regiment which I have the honor to command there were 8 killed and 56 wounded, 2 of which were mortal.

It affords me great pleasure to be able to bear testimony to the calm, cool, and discriminating courage of Col. Thomas Green during the fight. Major Pyron also deserves great credit for his soldiery bearing from the commencement to the close of the battle. Of the general's staff, Major Jackson was early on the ground, as was also Major Brownrigg, Captain Dwyer, and Lieutenant Ochiltree, actively engaged in the discharge of the duties assigned them. Each of these gentlemen exhibited that high courage which I hope will ever distinguish the officers of the army. To Majors Jackson and Brownrigg I am under obligations for valuable aid in the early part of the action.

It is due to the adjutant of this regiment, Ellsberry R. Lane, that I should not close this report without stating that he was actively and bravely engaged in the discharge of his duties on horseback until his horse failed, when, taking a gun, he entered the ranks of Captain Hampton's company, and did duty as a private during the remainder of the day.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. SCURRY

Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Fourth Regt. Texas Mounted Vols.

A. M. JACKSON,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of New Mexico [7]

The Confederate victory at Val Verde, if it was indeed a victory, was not won without terrible cost. Among the eight men killed on the field of battle that day was Daniel Gilleland, Jr. The official report of his death, not given until August of 1864, reads as follows:

> Private Daniel Gilleland of Captain C.M. Lesueur's Co. "D", 4th Regiment, Texas Cavalry, died on field at the battle of Val Verde of a gunshot wound received in breast on the 21st day of February 1862.
>
> The effects of said soldier, consisting of a horse and equipage and a few articles of clothing, were delivered to his brother, J. Gilleland, a sergeant of Co. "D", 4th Regt., T.C. by Capt. C. M. Lesueur. [8]

On Saturday, February 22, 1862, those killed at Val Verde were buried on the battlefield. Daniel Gilleland, Jr., age 25, was laid to rest in an unmarked grave, some 800 miles from his home in Milam County. He left his widow, Emily Anne (Allen) Gilleland, and at least four young children. [9]

General Sibley, in his own official report (he was confined to his tent during the battle) commended his Texas troops:

> It is due to the Fourth Regiment to mention at this place an action of devotion and self-sacrifice worthy of high praise, and the more commendable because they are Texans.
>
> In the action at Valverde many of their horses were killed, thus leaving them half foot and half mounted. The proposition being made to them to dismount, the whole regiment, without a dissenting voice, a cavalry regiment, which had proudly flaunted its banner before the enemy on the 20th, took the line of march on the 24th a strong and reliable regiment of infantry. [10]

The Army of New Mexico pushed on to Albuquerque, without taking Fort Craig. Desperate for food and provisions Sibley took command of Albuquerque and Santa Fe and what remained of goods stored in both towns. But after the Battle of Glorieta, near Santa Fe, in which the Confederate troops were routed and their supply wagons destroyed, the Army of New Mexico, facing defeat and hunger, began its slow retreat from the Territory. Sibley's army took the same route back to San Antonio that it had traveled the previous fall. Now, though, the troops were demoralized by the bitterness of their failed venture, starvation, thirst, disease, and periodic Indian attacks. Many of the soldiers were on foot and in rags. In the desolate and remote landscape stretching from Fort Bliss to Fort Davis many of the men died and were buried where they fell. With no water to drink, they killed supply mules and drank their blood. Only remnants of the 4th Texas Mounted Regiment straggled into San Antonio in the late summer of 1862.

Survivors of that miserable journey included James Gilleland and John Anders, the latter whom had suffered wounds at either Val Verde or Glorieta. For James fell the mournful duty of informing Daniel and Precilla and Emily Anne Gilleland of the death of their son and her husband. There was sorrow on the San Gabriel in the summer of 1862, but some measure of joy in the return of James and daughter Nancy's husband, John.

In the third year of the war, in the summer of 1863, William, John, James, and Alexander Gilleland were all serving in the Confederate Army from Texas. William Gilleland enlisted, age 39, as a private, in Co. "C", 1st Regiment, 27th Brigade, TST, at Willow Springs, Bell County, for six months' service. [11] John Henry and Alexander M. Gilleland both served in Ashford's Company, furloughed in April, 1864. [12]

James Gilleland remained with Company "D", now 4th Regiment, Texas Cavalry, and returned to duty when that regiment crossed the Sabine to form the Confederate defense against the Army of the Republic as it pushed Westward and took strategic points along the Mississippi and Red Rivers in Louisiana.

On June 28, 1863, the 4th Regiment, Texas Cavalry, participated in a battle with Union forces on Bayou La Fourche, near Donaldsonville, Louisiana, on the west bank of the Mississippi River. Wounded in the right knee and left leg, James Gilleland was taken prisoner by Northern forces and taken, most likely by steamboat, down river to New Orleans, where he was admitted to St. Louis Hospital on June 29th. New Orleans had fallen to Union forces in 1862 and the hospital had been taken over by the United States Army. Suffering from his wounds, which were serious, as well as chronic diarrhea, James Gilleland died, a "Rebel Prisoner of War," on July 21, 1863. [13] He was buried the same day in Cypress Grove Cemetery, New Orleans, Grave No. 29, where he lies today. According to the report of his death, "The effects of said soldier, consisting of a horse and equipage and a very few articles of clothing were all sent to his parents, who are the legal representatives of deceased." [14]

The deaths of two sons, a little more than a year apart, were grievous blows to Daniel and Precilla Gilleland. The sorrowful news of James' dying, alone and so far from home, reached the Gilleland Place farm one day that summer. Holding those few pieces of his clothing, his parents must have thought of times gone by and the joys he knew growing up in frontier Texas. Now he was gone, like Daniel, Jr., buried in a strange place, with none of his kin to bid him a proper farewell. The cotton would be ready to pick in a few weeks and some of the hands had run away from the farm. Those were painful times on Gabriel River and the words "When this Cruel War is Over" were heard spoken time and time again.

Daniel Gilleland, Jr., c.1860

Just Before the Battle, Mother

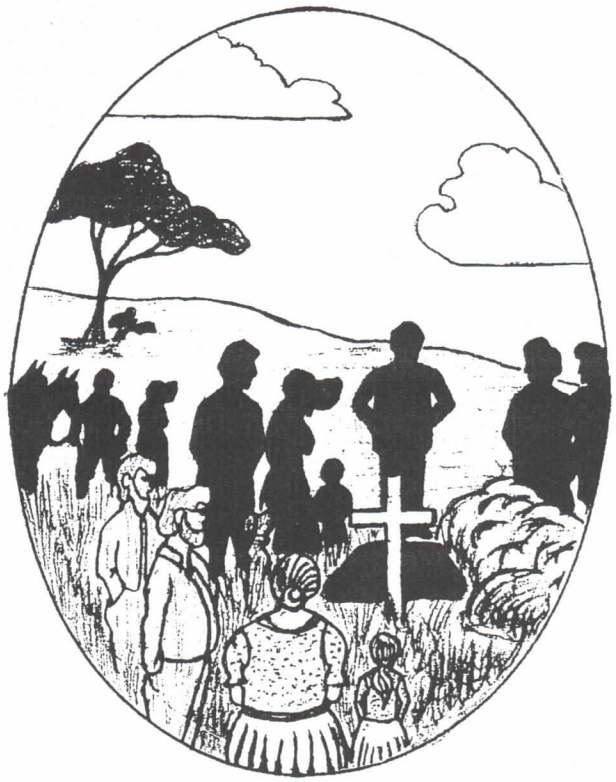
Just before the battle, mother,
I am thinking most of you,
While, upon the field, we're watching,
With the enemy in view.

Comrades brave are round me lying,
Filled with thoughts of home and God;
For well they know that, on the morrow,
Some will sleep beneath the sod.

Farewell, mother, you may never,
You may never, mother,
Press me to your breast again;
But O, you'll not forget me,
Mother, you will not forget me
If I'm number'd with the slain.

George Frederick Root

Chapter IX



"Another Good Man is Gone"

1865 ~ 1873

"...He was a resident for many years of Milam County, living on Gabriel River, where his influence has ever been for good."

J. F. Hines, Salado, Texas, 1873
from the obituary of Daniel Gilleland

The end of the war, and the dark days which followed, was a period of profound anguish for Texas and Milam County, with wounds that would not heal for many years to come. Daniel Gilleland was now in his 70th year, an old man by 19th Century standards, and had outlived a younger brother and sister in the harsh existence of the frontier. He and Precilla had lost two sons to the War Between the States and their grief was, at times, almost too much to bear. Life on Gabriel River had changed forever with Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse and hard times were now at hand.

Union troops now occupied Texas and in the summer of 1865, regiment after regiment rode through Milam County, enroute to San Antonio and Austin. In his book Lone Star, author T. R. Fehrenbach described the period in these words:

> Thousands of Texans watched Union soldiers march through the state with fife and drum; men, women, and small children saw miles of bayonets go by. A certain sense of history, which is more the remembrance of humiliations and defeats than collected glories, entered the Texas soul, in a way that non-Southern Americans never understood. [1]

Not far from the Gilleland Place farm one of these regiments made camp on the San Gabriel River, near the home of James H. Holtzclaw, who was married to Martha Gilleland's sister, Elizabeth. The Union soldiers had planted their regimental flag on the river bank and left it there, unprotected. Holtzclaw made his way down to the river and removed the silver spearhead and cord, leaving the flag and staff behind. Once the theft had been discovered, federal troops fanned out over the countryside, interrogating local residents and arresting several, including a Mr. Phillips, who was a tenant on the Holtzclaw farm. Realizing that his actions had led to a major incident, James Holtzclaw paid a visit to the Yankee commander of the regiment and confessed to having taken the spearhead and cord. He argued that, according to the rules of war, a flag left unprotected becomes the property of the enemy, provided the enemy can acquire it. Holtzclaw told the officer that he intended to fashion a bridle out of the rope and decorate it with the ornamental spearhead, making it the finest of its kind in Texas. After a few other remarks, James took his leave, and a short time later the captured trophies of war were turned over to a Union soldier dispatched to retrieve them. The matter was settled in this manner and nothing more was heard on the subject. [2]

Under the Second Reconstruction Act passed by Congress all of those citizens who had not taken up arms, or held office under the Confederacy, were required by law to swear an oath of allegiance to the United States and promise to uphold the Constitution. Daniel Gilleland appears as No. 1002 on the list of registered voters for Milam County, dated August 11, 1867. He provided the information that he had been

a resident of Texas for 45 years, a resident of Milam County for 20 years, and a resident of the San Andres Precinct for 20 years. He also stated that he had been born in Virginia. [3]

The Gilleland slaves, freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, had, by this time left the farm, or stayed on to work as sharecroppers on the land. Alexander Gilleland, then 23 years old, and his younger brother, Felix, age 21, remained at home with their parents. Two years later, on February 10, 1869, Felix Grundy Gilleland married Sarah Elizabeth Jones, in Milam County. [4] On the 1870 census Alexander M. Gilleland is shown, age 26, living in the household of his parents, Daniel, age 75, and Precilla, age 67. [5]

On January 29, 1870, Nancy (Gilleland) Anders died in Milam County, age 41, and was laid to rest in Hamilton Chapel Cemetery. Her husband, John Anders, still suffering from wounds received in the New Mexico campaign some eight years earlier, was left to care for their large family. [6]

Alexander Gilleland married Martha Ladonna Rogers on January 4, 1872, in Milam County, and stayed, with his bride, to take care of his parents, on the Gilleland Place farm. [7] Daniel and Precilla had been married 53 years in February of 1872 and had outlived eight of their 13 children. Besides Alexander and Felix, their surviving children were Sarah and William, the eldest daughter and son, both living outside Milam County, and John Henry, who lived nearby.

Daniel Gilleland died at his home on the San Gabriel River on Sunday, January 12, 1873, age 77 years, 7 months, and 3 days. [8] He had lived roughly fifty of those years on the Texas frontier, and the Texas he had first set eyes upon as a young man had been transformed into a thriving state, far removed from the virgin land of 1821. Daniel was buried in the family graveyard on Gilleland Place farm, with family and neighbors gathered to bid him farewell. Less than four months later, on Friday, May 9, 1873, Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland followed her husband to the grave. [9] She was buried on Daniel's left, in a grave a short distance from the river, and a large, double tombstone was placed there to mark the spot. The inscription, partly misspelled, reads simply:

In Memory of Danuel Gilleland Born June 9, 1795 Died January 12, 1873	In Memory of Precilla Gilleand Born June 20, 1803 Died May 9, 1873

In the records of Milam County there is a deed bearing the date 9 February 1876, by which Alexander M. Gilleland and his wife, Martha L. Gilleland, conveyed two hundred acres, comprising the Gilleland Place farm, to H.G. Carter, in consideration of the sum of twenty five hundred dollars in hand paid. This land, deeded by Tacitus Clay to Daniel and Precilla Gilleland and by them to Felix and Alexander Gilleland and then by Felix to Alexander Gilleland, the same being two hundred acres square, fronting on the north side of the San Gabriel River, now passed out of Gilleland hands for the first time in almost thirty years. [10]

This last home to Daniel and Precilla Gilleland and their last resting place would become little more than a memory for more than a century, as the years passed slowly and Nature took its course. The rains, winds, and floods of a hundred and more years would visit destruction on that quiet and secluded spot where a family, together in life, remained together when life was no more.

GILLELAND.—Another good man is gone. Father DANIEL GILLELAND, for many long years a faithful soldier of the cross, now rests from his labors. He was born in Weir county, Arkansas Territory, in 1795; removed to Texas in 1821; joined the Methodist Church in 1836, and died, of congestion, January 12, 1873.

He was a resident for many years of Milam county, living on Gabriel river, where his influence has ever been for good. Although personally unknown to us, yet we join to bless his memory, for the savor of his devoted life lives and lingers in the hearts of his family and friends, who are now left to mourn his loss. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; yea, saith the Spirit, they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

His bereaved companion, partner of life's joys and sorrows, is left in melancholy sadness, while children and grandchildren, neighbors and friends, mourn and humbly pray for submission to the will of our Heavenly Father. May God sanctify this sad affliction. J. F. HINES.

SALADO, Texas, 1873.

Remarks Made at the Dedication of the Daniel Gilleland Cemetery

by Richard Scroggins, October 31, 1987

On a chilly day, one hundred and fifteen years ago come January, a small group of men, women, and children gathered on this spot, drawn here out of sorrow and loss. They had come on horseback, in buggies and in wagons, from neighboring counties and from houses down the lane, to lay an old man to rest, deep in the soil he dearly loved. His name was Daniel Gilleland, and in his long life he had seen some 77 winters, followed by 77 springs. There would be no spring of 1873 for old Dan'l Gilleland. He was 50 years in Texas when last he closed his eyes, and the Texas he left behind was a far different place from the wilderness he had first known as a young man.

Old Daniel left a widow, his wife of nearly 54 years. You will find her called "Precilla, his wife," but that doesn't began to describe what she was to Daniel and their children. It had been another cold day, in February, 1819, when 15 year old Precilla Boatwright had been joined in marriage to 23 year old Daniel Gilleland, and the years they would have together would be filled with all the happiness and grief, fortune and failure, that accompanied pioneer life. Throughout that marriage she was both his lover and his friend, his helper and his strength. She would bear 13 children and lose 8 of those children to sickness, to childbirth, and finally, to the bitter struggle of civil war. Whatever life offered, or took away, Precilla came to accept, with the steadfast faith and courage that formed the core of her being. In Daniel Gilleland she found a man with whom to share her life and her dreams, and together, they set out for Texas, the new "Promised Land," secure in the understanding that grows between a man and a woman living on the frontier.

Daniel and Precilla crossed the Brazos River in the last week of 1821, certain of nothing except each other. In her arms Precilla carried a baby girl. Her name was Sarah and she had come into the world a few days after Daniel and Precilla had lost their first born son. That little girl, like Texas, represented the promise of new life. And what a life it was to be! The history of Texas in those days was written by people like the Gillelands. Beginning in the Mexican period, through the decade of the Republic, the spirited times of early statehood, the brief glory of the Confederacy and the painful years that followed, the Gillelands played their parts, both large and small. So, when we speak of Texas and her history, we speak of Daniel and Precilla and others like them who pushed westward, guided by the promise of good land and a better life. A kinship developed between the Gillelands and this land and they had a love for Texas that they carried with them all their days.

The spring of 1873 unfolded in all of its fresh beauty for Precilla Gilleland, but she was not meant to see her 70th year. And, once more, a group of her children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors, stood in this place and bid her goodbye. She was remembered for the love she gave her family and for the trust she placed in the good Lord. Then they laid her in the ground beside her husband and close by some of their children. Later, they put up this double tombstone to mark the spot and engraved upon it the

given names and dates that marked the passage of Daniel and Precilla, from birth to death, with nothing in between.

Since that day, so long ago now, time forgot these Gillelands. The world grew up and Texas grew along with it. The Gillelands would not know our Texas and perhaps, that is just as well. They would not have understood so many of the changes wrought by progress. But we can well imagine that Daniel and Precilla would be pleased, that "we," their many children, have gathered here, not in sorrow, but in celebration. We are the recipients of a rich and bountiful legacy and for that, we offer our gratitude and the frail human pledge of remembrance.

We have traveled here today on highways, that flow in every direction, like so many silver ribbons shining in the sun. I look around and I see, in the faces of their descendants, fulfillment of the bright promise sought by Daniel and Precilla, over one hundred and fifty years ago, on another October day. Their journey would lead them into a wilderness and out of that wilderness they were to make a home. What greater testament to their sacrifice could there be than to have gathered in one place so many of their great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, great-great-great grandchildren, and great-great-great-great grandchildren? And, what better place than this could there be to gather, remembering the courage and faith that this couple possessed in such abundance?

Here, beside the winding, green river, in a quiet and peaceful grove, we are united in spirit and find ourselves forever bound to this place. Listen closely and you can hear the echo of their voices, calling from the yard and out in the fields. You can hear their laughter, too, in times of great joy, and know, deep in the silence of the gathering dusk, the many tears they cried. Standing here, upon this ground, you can feel the strength inherent in the land. And, in the stillness of the early morning or late afternoon, you can sometimes hear the sound of the river, as it flows beyond these trees. The river will hold the Gillelands in its memory, long after we have gone. And we, like Daniel and Precilla, will have come to know that no bond on Earth is as powerful, or as precious, as that of family.

Chapter X

"The Promise Lives On"

1873 ~ 1895

"...and I also give to her my feather bed."

from the Last Will and Testament of Dianna Gilleland
June 28th, 1895

In the summer of 1895 an old woman lay on her large feather bed in a big house in Waco. Dianna (Moore) Gilleland was now in her 90th year and in her heart she knew that she wasn't long for this life. Memories played in her mind of the time, over seventy years before, when as a young woman she had set out with her husband and baby daughter for Texas, the hoped-for promised land. It seemed so very long ago.

The death of her husband, in the early part of 1839, might have left Dianna Gilleland a widow, but it would not hold back her life. Sustained by her deep faith in God and a clear determination and strength of purpose, she made a place for herself on the Texas frontier. Pregnant with her last child when she buried James, Dianna would name the girl James Emeline, so as to always remember the father through the child. [1]

Her children, one son and five daughters, were the substance of her life and Dianna Gilleland set out to ensure that each of them would have something in the way of property and possessions befitting their heritage as Texas pioneers. To 20th Century eyes Dianna Gilleland represents a most remarkable breed of woman. In many ways she was ahead of her time in her attitude toward property and the management thereof. During a time when a woman was more or less bound to her husband in all legal matters Dianna Gilleland made a life for herself, and became a person to be reckoned with, at the age of 33.

In 1840 she was the first woman to register a cattle brand in newly-formed Travis County. [2] "The Assessor's Return for the Year 1840" lists Dianna Gilleland as holding 2,900 acres of land under clear title, plus 177 acres under survey, pending patent, two slaves, and 30 head of cattle. [3] Not long after this time she built a home on the site of James Gilleland's original cabin, not far from Gilleland Creek, now within the boundaries of Travis County, just off the Bastrop Road. Lying along the Colorado River, Dianna's homestead was large enough to plant the necessary crops and raise cattle for the growing Texas beef market.

When her oldest daughter, Rebecca Ann (Gilleland) Burt, died on Christmas Day, 1843, Dianna took her child to raise as her own. When the little boy died, in August of the following year, she buried him near his grandfather, James. Samuel Pearce Burt, the child's father, left Texas a few years later to follow the California gold rush. The Gilleland daughters all married into well-known Travis County families, among them the Cottinghams, McLarens and Becks. [4] Nancy Dianna Gilleland was married to James O. Rice, early Texas Ranger, who had distinguished himself in the Flores affair in the late 1830's. The killing of Manuel Flores, who had been working to incite the Indians against the settlers, and the capture of important documents pertaining to the Cordova Rebellion, made Rice a hero. He went on to serve in the Somervell and Mier Expeditions and afterwards settled in Williamson County, where he remained a

prominent member of the community, serving as postmaster and commissioner, in addition to running a tavern and tan yard at what would become the town of Rice's Crossing. Nancy Dianna (Gilleland) Rice died in 1859 and was buried beside her sister, Rebecca Burt, and father, James Gilleland, in Travis County. [5]

Nathaniel Gilleland, only son of Dianna and James Gilleland, died unmarried in 1856, in Cherokee County, Texas, and was brought home and buried in the family plot near Gilleland Creek. [6] In February of that year an Agreement in Partition was filed in Travis County, dividing up the James Gilleland League on the Colorado River. Aaron Burleson, Reuben Hornsby, and John D. Banks were appointed to oversee the property division. Family members receiving land were: Dianna, widow of James Gilleland; Nathaniel Moore Gilleland; Sarah E. (Gilleland) Cottingham and husband, Alfred; Dianna Melissa (Gilleland) McLaren and husband, Matthew; James Emeline (Gilleland) Beck and husband, Thadeus; Nancy Dianna (Gilleland) Rice and husband, James O. Rice; and Samuel Pearce Burt of California, by his agent in fact, James A. Poage, of Freestone County, Texas. [7]

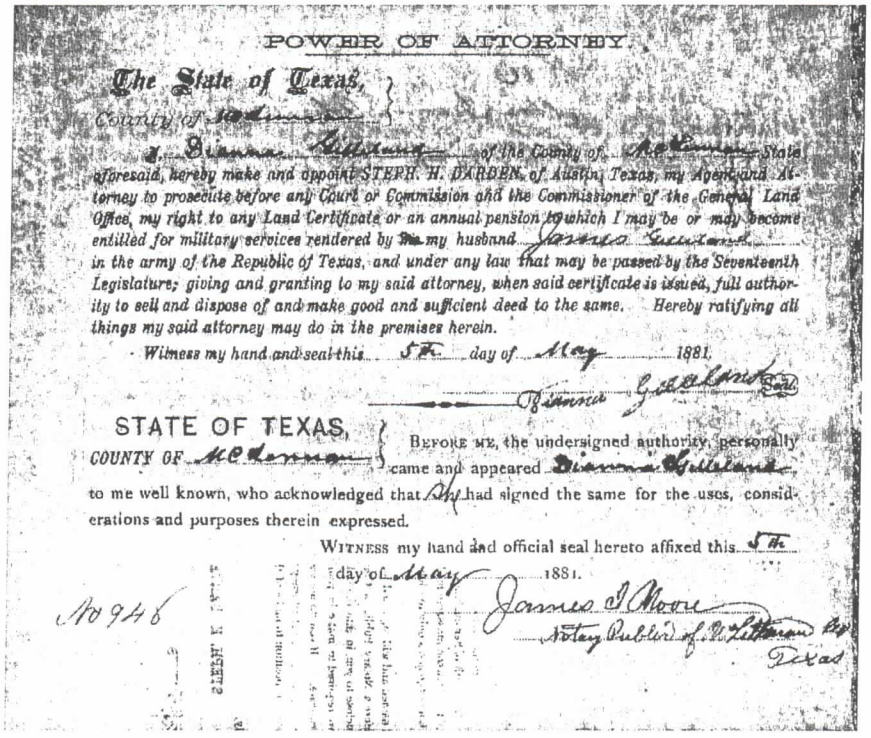
Sometime during the 1850's Dianna Gilleland had moved to the town of Austin, where she lived in a house located on an acre, not far from the Capitol building. [8] About 1871 she purchased a town lot in the city of Waco, on the Brazos River, for $800.00 and 25 head of horses, valued at $400.00. [9] Dianna would live in Waco, McLennan County, for the remainder of her life.

A decade later, in 1881, the State of Texas began issuing land certificates to widows of Texas Veterans and Dianna Gilleland sought to obtain land in this manner. Among the documents on file in the Archives of the General Land Office in Austin are a Power of Attorney, filed May 5, 1881, by which she appoints Stephen H. Darden, of Austin, as her Agent and Attorney in such matters, a Veteran Donation for 1,280 acres in Green County (later cancelled in accordance with an Act approved in 1887) and an application to prove she was the widow of a Texas veteran. The last document is a particularly interesting one in that it contains information confirming the date of James Gilleland's death and is witnessed by two early settlers who knew the family well, William Duty and W.S. Hotchkiss. Dianna has signed the document in two places, using her characteristic small case "d," and spelling her name with two "n's" and no "h." [10] In 1883, she purchased another lot in Waco, located on North 8th Street, for $1,100.00. [11]

In the presence of witnesses, on June 28, 1895, Dianna Gilleland dictated her Last Will and Testament. Two weeks later, on July 13th, she died, among the last of her generation of Texas pioneers. Dianna had survived James Gilleland by fifty-six years, and outlived all of her children except Dianna Melissa (Gilleland) McLaren. She was taken to Travis County and buried, as she had requested, beside her husband, at Hunter's Bend, as it had come to be called. [12] Dianna Gilleland, like Daniel and Precilla Gilleland and Sarah and Robert Kuykendall, was possessed of those characteristics which set the early Texas settlers apart. By their struggles and by their determination they made a home out of a virtual wilderness and built the foundation of what would become the Republic of Texas, and evolve into a great and mighty state.

By 1895 most of the second generation of Gillelands in Texas had passed on as well, due to war, epidemics, and old age. John Henry Gilleland died on January 28, 1880, age 49, at Tracy, Milam County, Texas. [13] Alexander M. Gilleland is believed to have died about 1900 in Milam County and is thought to be buried in the family graveyard at Gilleland Place farm. [14] Sarah (Gilleland) Hall went to her rest on May 18, 1894, in Burnet County, Texas. [15]

William Gilleland died, age 73, on July 17, 1897, at Canyon, Randall County, Texas. That summer his grandson, Samuel Bolton Gilleland, was nine months old. [16] On October 16, 1991, Bolton Gilleland, great grandson of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland, will celebrate his 95th birthday. For him and for all those generations of Gillelands born of pioneer Texans and guided by the bright promise of a new life in a new land, the promise lives on.



POWER OF ATTORNEY

The State of Texas,
County of McLennan

I, Dianna Gilleland of the County of McLennan State aforesaid, hereby make and appoint STEPH. H. DARDEN, of Austin, Texas, my Agent and Attorney to prosecute before any Court or Commission and the Commissioner of the General Land Office, my right to any Land Certificate or an annual pension to which I may be or may become entitled for military services rendered by ~~me~~ my husband James Gilleland in the army of the Republic of Texas, and under any law that may be passed by the Seventeenth Legislature; giving and granting to my said attorney, when said certificate is issued, full authority to sell and dispose of and make good and sufficient deed to the same. Hereby ratifying all things my said attorney may do in the premises herein.

Witness my hand and seal this 5th day of May 1881.

Dianna Gilleland (Seal)

STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF McLennan

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally came and appeared Dianna Gilleland, to me well known, who acknowledged that she had signed the same for the uses, considerations and purposes therein expressed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal hereto affixed this 5th day of May 1881.

James T. Moore
Notary Public of McLennan Co Texas

No 946

1881 Document, Dianna (Moore) Gilleland

PROOF TO PROCURE LAND CERTIFICATE FOR WIDOW OF TEXAS VETERAN.

This blank is prepared and furnished by STEWART & MABICHT, Austin, Texas. We have a different blank for the veteran himself.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF Travis } Before me, Z. T. Fulmore

County Judge of county aforesaid, personally appeared Mrs. Diana Gilleland to me well known, who being first duly sworn, says:

1. That she is the widow of James Gilleland who died on or about the 27th day of February 1839.

2. That the affiant and said James Gilleland were living together as husband and wife at the date of his death.

3. That the affiant is unmarried, and has always been unmarried since the death of her said husband.

4. That said James Gilleland was a soldier and actually rendered military service in the Texas Army subsequent to the declaration of Texas independence and prior to January 1, 1837.

5. That said James Gilleland entered such service on or about the 1 6th day of July 1836, and was honorably discharged on or about the 1 5th day of October 1836

6. That during said time said James Gilleland served in the following companies and regiments: (Here give names of Captains and Colonels he served under.) Dianna Gilleland

Capt Baily Anderson Company

7. That said James Gilleland affiant's husband, is the same and identical person who served in such companies and regiments.

8. That affiant is now a resident citizen of Travis county, Texas.

Also, at the same time, before me, personally came Wm Duty and W. S. Hotchkiss credible persons, and to me well known, who being duly sworn, depose and say that they know Diana Gilleland the first affiant, and that she is the identical person she represents herself to be, and that the facts stated by her ~~are~~ we believe are true, and that she is recognized as the widow of a Texas veteran.

(Signature of Widow.) Dianna Gilleland

(Signature of Witness.) William Duty

(Signature of Witness.) W. S. Hotchkiss

SWORN TO and subscribed before me this 26 day of July 1881.

And I hereby certify that it is my opinion and belief that Mrs Diana Gilleland is the widow of James Gilleland and that he was a bona fide Texas veteran, and that her claim for a veteran donation land certificate is a valid one.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the County Court hereto attached the date last above written.

Z. T. Fulmore
County Judge Travis County, Texas.

Test: Frank Brown
Clerk County Court Travis County, Texas.
By Ad Stamm Dep.

☞ Be sure and sign the authority on the reverse hereof.

1881 Document, Dianna (Moore) Gilleland

NOTES

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30 T. J. Williams
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33 Ibid
34 Tombstone Survey, James Gilleland Family Cemetery, Travis County, Texas

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6 Ibid, p. 43
7 Ibid, p. 47
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9 Tombstone Survey, James Gilleland Family Cemetery, Travis County, Texas
10 Headright Certificate No. 142, James Gilleland, Bastrop County, 1838, General Land Office, Austin, Texas
11 Research by Margaret E. Johnson, Olivia, Texas
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[14] Marshall E. Kuykendall, Austin, Texas
[15] J. H. Kuykendall
[16] Barker, Austin Papers, Vol. III, p. 311
[17] Texas Gazette, March 27, 1830
[18] Marshall E. Kuykendall, Austin, Texas
[19] Diary of William Barrett Travis, Starr Papers, Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin

Chapter V

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[6] Austin's Register of Families, General Land Office, Austin, Texas
[7] Correspondence from Margaret E. Johnson, Olivia, Texas, November 9, 1987
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[11] Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
[12] Ibid
[13] Genealogical Research by Johnny Crow, Austin, Texas
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[5] Call #C-32, 24c6, 2112-412, Treasury Department, Audited Military Claims, Republic of Texas, July 20, 1836
[6] Proof to Procure Land Certificate for Widow of Texas Veteran, July 26, 1881, General Land Office, Spanish Archives, Austin, Texas
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[9] Washington County, Texas, Marriage Records; Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
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[11] Corrie Pattison Hasken, Historical Records of Austin and Waller County, pp. 18-20

12 Leonie Rummel Weyand and Houston Wade, An Early History of Fayette County, (LaGrange: The LaGrange Journal, 1936), p. 206

13 Colorado County, Texas, Deed Records, pp. 323-329

14 Headright Certificate No. 142, Bastrop County, General Land Office, Spanish Archives, Austin, Texas

15 Handbook of Texas, Vol. I, p. 689

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17 Last Will and Testament of James Gilleland, Bastrop County, Probate Records

18 Alan Pape, (Ed.), 1835-1985: 150 Years of Methodism in Bastrop (Bastrop, Texas: Bastrop Stationers, April, 1985)

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21 Tombstone Survey, James Gilleland Cemetery, Travis County, Texas

22 Washington County, Texas, Deed Records, Deed Book B, p. 333

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35 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible

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1 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible

2 Deed, October 9, 1846, General Land Office, Spanish Archives, Austin, Texas

3 1847 Tax Rolls, Milam County, Texas

4 Cause No. 600, District Court Records, Montgomery County, Texas, September 9, 1848

5 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible; Fragment of Tombstone discovered July ,1986

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[2] History of Texas, Together With a Biographical History of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis, Lee and Burleson Counties. (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1893), Biography of James H. Holtzclaw, Sr.
[3] Gifford White, 1830 Citizens of Texas, (Austin: Eakin Press, 1983), pp. 215-217, 234
[4] Research by Dee Whiteside, Austin, Texas
[5] U.S. Census, 1870, Milam County, Texas
[6] Research by Margaret E. Johnson, Olivia, Texas
[7] Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
[8] Tombstone, Daniel Gilleland Cemetery, Milam County, Texas
[9] Tombstone, Daniel Gilleland Cemetery, Milam County, Texas
[10] Milam County, Texas, Deed Records, February 9, 1876

Chapter X

[1] Genealogy by Johnny Crow, Austin, Texas
[2] Travis County, Texas, Registry of Brands, 1840
[3] Gifford White, 1840 Citizens of Texas: Vol. II, Tax Rolls, (St. Louis: Ingmire Publications, 1984), p. 208
[4] Travis County, Texas, Marriage Records
[5] Handbook of Texas, Vol. II; Research by Clara Scarborough, Georgetown, Texas; Tombstone Survey, James Gilleland Cemetery, Travis County, Texas
[6] Tombstone Survey, James Gilleland Cemetery, Travis County, Texas
[7] Abstract to Hunter Property, Agreement in Partition, Book K, pp. 275-278, in possession of Charles Hackett, Jr., Austin, Texas
[8] McLennan County, Texas, Probate Records, Will Dated June 28, 1895
[9] McLennan County, Texas, Deed Records, Book P, p. 27
[10] Records of the General Land Office, Spanish Archives, Austin,Texas
[11] McLennan County, Texas, Deed Records, Vol. 39, p. 521
[12] Last Will and Testament, Dianna Gilleland; Oral tradition from the late Mr. James Glass, Travis County, Texas
[13] Tombstone Survey, Tracy Cemetery, Milam County, Texas
[14] Gilleland Family Tradition; Oral tradition from the late Mr. Les Horton, Milam County, Texas
[15] Tombstone Survey, Bear Creek Cemetery, Burnet County, Texas
[16] Genealogical Research by Patricia Gilleland Young, Abilene, Texas

Part II

Genealogies

Editor's Note

The family histories and accompanying genealogies which follow were contributed by descendants from all branches of the Gilleland family. While every effort has been made to verify this information, errors will no doubt occur. In some instances, when there was confusion regarding names and/or dates, judgments were made based upon the most prevalent oral tradition, as well as those related primary sources available to us. If no information was supplied it could obviously not be included. This genealogy is as complete and well-documented as possible and should serve as a firm foundation for additional research on the Gilleland family in Texas.

Mrs. Mary L. Moore.

NANCY WILLIAMS AND HER CHILDREN

by Margaret Holmes Johnson

Nancy Johnson, daughter of Philip Johnson, married William Gilleland in Prince Edward County, Virginia, on September 26, 1792. [1] They had two sons born in Virginia: Robert, born about 1793, and Daniel, born June 9, 1795. Sarah Ann was born December 4, 1797, in Kentucky or Tennessee, and James was born September 8, 1798, in Tennessee. [2]

The next thing we know about William Gilleland is that he made a will in Davidson County, Tennessee, in April of 1800. In the will he requests his executrix, his wife Nancy, to take to Mississippi Territory to sell, some horses and a Negro slave, Pompey. Slaves and horses are bringing high prices in Mississippi Territory. The money from the sale is to be used to buy land for the three sons. A slave and her increase is to be given to the daughter. The widow is to have use of one third of the property and to live on the land bought for the sons, if she wishes. The will is in probate court in July of 1800. [3] In 1807, in Robertson County, Tennessee, 800 acres of land is bought for Robert, Daniel and James Gilleland. [4]

On September 15, 1802, a license was issued in Davidson County, Tennessee, for the marriage of Thomas Williams to Nancy Gilleland. [5] In June of 1811, in the Territory of Louisiana, District of Arkansas, a deed is recorded in which Nancy Williams gave to her son Robert her property. [6] That is the last we hear of Robert. He did not come to Texas with the family.

On March 26, 1816, Thomas Williams sold 640 acres to Sylvanous Phillips. The land was on the Cypress Bayou waters of the White River and Mississippi River.

The Thomas Williams family was living in Arkansas Territory by 1807 when their son, Thomas Johnson Williams, was born. He gives this as his birthplace on all census records. A son, Benjamin, was born before 1807, and he died on the way to Texas in about 1820. Daughter Nancy was born in 1809, and a daughter Mary Diane was born in 1811. Two other daughters were born in Arkansas Territory, both dying as young children.

In about 1817, the Williams family moved to the area of the Kiamichi River north of the Red River. They cleared land and built homes, thinking that the United States was going to issue titles to this land. The government then made a treaty with the Choctaw Indians, giving them the land, so the government ordered the settlers to leave. Soldiers were sent to destroy the crops and burn the homes.

These settlers then moved down to Pecan Point and Jonesborough on the Red River. [7] Pecan Point was located at the site of an ancient buffalo crossing on the river. It was also the site of an early settlement of Caddoan Indians.

In June of 1815, Alex Wetmore established a trading house. In 1819, the United States had a money panic. The banks had overextended themselves in making loans to the planters of the South and the factories of the North, so they refused to loan money. Many people moved westward and settled along the Red River, where they began to hear about Moses Austin's plan for a colony in Texas. Many of Austin's

"Old Three Hundred" (first settlers) were these very families: Kuykendall, Gates, Varner, Styles, Williams, Wyatt, Gilleland, Hampton, Allcorn, Boatwright, and Robinson.

In 1821, the Thomas Williams family left Pecan Point, traveling south in hopes of joining Austin's Colony whenever it became organized. At this time, Moses Austin was in Mexico trying to secure permission to bring in the settlers.

At this early date, there were few roads or even marked trails into north Texas, making wagon travel difficult, if not impossible, so the Williams family used pack horses on their trip into Texas. Each horse carried a large Mexican Ciaxes (packsaddle). A wooden frame was made and a wet cowhide was stretched over this frame. A flap of the hide was left to cover the top, making it waterproof. Two of these huge bags were joined together by straps that fit over the horse's back. A feather bed would fit into one of these bags. The ill son, Benjamin, and the women rode on the pack horses. Caleb Bostic and John Ingram, an orphan boy, helped Thomas Williams and his son, Thomas, Jr., drive the cattle and the hogs. In December of 1821 this group made it to the east side of the Brazos River and made camp.

In January of 1822 the Williams family crossed the Colorado River and settled on what was later named Williams Creek. This creek is south of the present city of La Grange, Texas. The Williams family was said to be the first Anglo family to cross the Colorado River. This is about eight miles above where the town of Columbus was later established.

In July of 1822, Stephen F. Austin stayed with the Williams family from Saturday until Monday. [9] The census of 1823 shows many families living here that later had land grants in the area that became Matagorda County. Some of these families were: Hunter, Bright, Ingram, McCrosky, Kincheloe, Bostic, Kuykendall, Williams, Morrison, Selkirk, Cummins, Bell, Harrison, Lacy and Burnham. In 1823, Stephen F. Austin proceeded to lay out a town here for the projected capital of his colony. The town was named Beason, the first surveyed and platted Anglo-American town in Texas. [10]

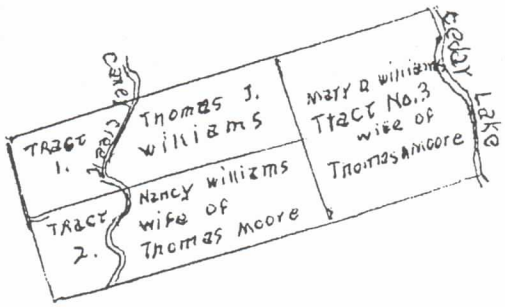
In 1822, Thomas Williams and Caleb Bostic led pack horses to the mouth of the Colorado River and moved those families who had come by boat to the Beason settlement up the river. These families were the Brights, Smalleys, Ralls, Hunter, Patons and Kincheloes.

In June of 1823, Thomas Williams, Caleb Bostic, Thomas Jimerson and Mose Morrison cut a path down to Bay Prairie, then to Caney Bottom, Cedar Lake, where the Williams family located. The Williamses built a large house on Cedar Lake. There were many Karankawa Indians in the area and they gave the settlers a great deal of trouble. There were also many deer and bears, which provided the settlers with plenty of meat. In the fall of 1823, the John Bell family with three children of school age, a Harrison family with two children, and the Williams family with three children, started a school at Cedar Lake. Thomas Tone was the teacher. [11]

On the fourth day of July, 1824, Thomas Jefferson Williams died from exposure at the age of 53. Nancy was left a widow with three children to raise, in a wild, new land. When she went to bed at night,

she did not know whether she would see another day. The Karankawas were an ever-present threat. In 1825, members of neighbor families, the Flowers and Cavenahs, were murdered by the Indians.

On August 6, 1824, Stephen F. Austin granted a league of land to Thomas Jefferson Williams, who was already deceased. In 1833, Nancy Williams divided this land between her three Williams children: Thomas Johnson Williams, Nancy Moore and Mary Diane Moore. For a few years, Mary Diane and her husband, Thomas A. Moore, lived on this land, before moving to Travis County, Texas, about 1840. [12]



Plat of Thomas Williams League on Caney Creek and Cedar Lake, as subdivided by Thomas J. Tone, before the war.

This deed was filed January 21, 1841. At this time, Nancy Williams was living in Travis County with her daughter, Mary Diane Moore. The deed was made in order to clear title to the land that Nancy (Williams) Moore left at her death.

Daughter Nancy married Thomas Moore, a cousin to the Thomas A. Moore who married her sister, Mary Diane Williams. Nancy (Williams) Moore died before 1841, leaving two minor children, Nathaniel and Elizabeth Jane Moore, who were residents of Arkansas at that time. Nancy (Gilleland) Williams was dead by 1854. [13] Nancy was probably buried in the Thomas A. Moore family cemetery, in Travis County, Texas, for this was where she made her home for many years before her death. This cemetery was destroyed several years ago.

NOTES

1 Marriages of Prince Edward County, Virginia
2 Census Records
3 Probate Records of Davidson County, Tennessee, Book 2, p. 188
4 Marriage Records of Davidson County, Tennessee, Book 1, p. 45
5 Arkansas County, Arkansas Territory, Deed Book A, p. 200
6 Arkansas County, Arkansas Territory, Deed Book A, p. 133
7 Unpublished Manuscript, "Reminiscence of T.J. Williams"
8 The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. XLIII, p. 161
9 "Reminiscence of T.J. Williams"
10 "Early Settlers and Bits of History of Columbus and Colorado County, Texas, 1821-1845," by Mary Elizabeth Hopkins and James G. Hopkins, Preservation Committee of Colorado County, Texas
11 "Reminiscence of T.J. Williams"
12 Matagorda County, Texas, Deed Book G., p. 103

[13] This date was arrived at from Travis County, Texas, deeds, clearing title to land in Matagorda County that was once part of the league of land granted to Thomas Jefferson Williams in 1824.

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William and Nancy (Johnson) Gilleland

William Gilleland, born October 7, 1770 in Pennsylvania, died July 1800, Davidson County, Tennessee

married

Nancy Johnson, born 1773 in Virginia, died c. 1854, Travis County, Texas

on September 26, 1792, Prince Edward County, Virginia

Their children were:

Robert Gilleland, born c. 1793 in Virginia, died before 1822

Daniel Gilleland, born June 9, 1795 in Virginia, died January 12, 1873, Milam County, Texas

Sarah Gilleland, born December 4, 1797 in Tennessee, died October 30, 1857, Matagorda, Texas

James Gilleland, born September 8, 1798 in Tennessee, died February 27, 1839, Travis County, Texas

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Thomas and Nancy (Gilleland) Williams

Thomas Williams, born c. 1781, died July 4, 1824, Cedar Lake, Matagorda County, Texas

married

Nancy (Johnson) Gilleland, born 1773 in Virginia, died c. 1854, Travis County, Texas

on September 15, 1802, Davidson County, Tennessee

Their children were:

Benjamin Williams, born (date unknown), in Arkansas Territory, died c. 1822 in Texas

Thomas Johnson Williams, born November 7, 1807 in Arkansas Territory, died October 5, 1889, Matagorda County, Texas

Nancy Williams, born 1809 in Arkansas Territory, died in Arkansas, before 1841

Mary Diane Williams, born 1811 in Arkansas Territory, died April 10, 1884, Williamson County, Texas

Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland

Daniel Gilleland, born June 9, 1795 in Virginia, died January 12, 1873 in Milam County, Texas

married

Precilla Boatwright, born June 20, 1803 in Illinois Territory, died May 9, 1873, Milam County, Texas

on February 3, 1819, Miller County, Arkansas Territory

Their children were:

Lewis Gilleland, born February 7, 1820, Miller County, Arkansas Territory, died October 15, 1821, Texas

Sarah Gilleland, born October 17, 1821, in Texas, died May 18, 1894, Burnet County, Texas

William Gilleland, born October 25, 1823, Cedar Creek, Washington County, Texas, died July 17, 1897, Randall County, Texas

Thomas Gilleland, born January 3, 1825, in Texas, died December 18, 1848, Milam County, Texas

Mary Gilleland, born January 23, 1827, in Arkansas, died January, 1852, Milam County, Texas

Nancy Gilleland, born January 19, 1829, Pope County, Arkansas, died January 29, 1870, Milam County, Texas

John Henry Gilleland, born January 16, 1831, Moore's Fort, Fayette County, Texas, died January 28, 1880, Milam County, Texas

Amy Gilleland, born January 11, 1834, Wharton County, Texas, died July 7, 1837, Washington County, Texas

Daniel Gilleland, Jr., born November 11, 1835, Washington County, Texas, died February 21, 1862, Val Verde, New Mexico Territory

James Gilleland, born January 20, 1837, Washington County, Texas, died July 21, 1863, New Orleans, Louisiana

Felix Gilleland, born May 1, 1841, Washington County, Texas, died August, 1841, Washington County, Texas

Alexander M. Gilleland, born December 19, 1844, Montgomery County, Texas, died c. 1900, Milam County, Texas

Felix Grundy Gilleland, born April 20, 1846, Montgomery County, Texas, died January 13, 1918, Smith County, Texas

LEWIS GILLELAND

Lewis Gilleland, the first of thirteen children born to Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland, was probably born near Jonesboro, Arkansas Territory, on February 7, 1820. [1] He died October 15, 1821, age 1 year and 8 months old, in Texas, enroute to Austin's Colony, two days before Precilla gave birth to her first daughter, Sarah. [2]

AMY GILLELAND

Amy Gilleland, fourth daughter and eighth child of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland, was born January 11, 1834, probably in present-day Wharton County, Texas. [3] She died, July 7, 1837, age 3 1/2 years old, in Washington County, Texas, and is buried in the Chappell Hill-Cedar Creek area. [4]

FELIX GILLELAND

Felix Gilleland, son of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland, was born May 1, 1841, in Washington or Harrison County and died in August the same year. [5]

NOTES

[1] Daniel Gilleland Family Bible, Family Record Pages
[2] Ibid
[3] Ibid
[4] Ibid
[5] Ibid

SARAH HALL
BORN

SARAH GILLELAND HALL

By Richard Scroggins

Sarah Gilleland, eldest daughter of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland, was born on October 17, 1821, on the La Bahia Road, probably between Nacogdoches and the Brazos River. She was the first of the couple's thirteen children to be born on Texas soil. [1]

On May 13, 1837, Sarah Gilleland married William Gladden Hall (born June 22, 1808 in Kentucky) at Washington, Texas. Their marriage record is among the earliest on record in Washington County. [2] William Hall's family was one of the most prominent in the area, founding the town of Washington and serving in positions of influence in the community. Numerous land deeds and other documents attest to how well established the Halls were in those days.

William Gladden and Sarah Hall had twelve children, beginning with the birth of Thomas Phineas Hall, in October of 1838, Daniel, in 1842, Mary M. in 1844, James in 1846, Samuel in 1848, William, in 1849, Jackson in 1852, John R. in 1854, Amanda in 1855, Cullin in 1857, Annie in 1859 and Mary, in 1863. The family would eventually settle in Burnet County, in the vicinity of Liberty Hill, Texas. William Gladden Hall died in 1891. Sarah Gilleland Hall died on May 18, 1894 and was buried beside her husband, in Bear Creek Cemetery, near Bertram, Texas. [3]

NOTES

[1] Daniel Gilleland Family Bible, Family Record Pages
[2] Washington County, Texas, Marriage Records
[3] Genealogy supplied by Francis White; Tombstone Survey, Bear Creek Cemetery, Burnet County, Texas

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William Gladden and Sarah (Gilleland) Hall

William Gladden Hall, born June 22, 1808 in Kentucky, died 1891, Burnet County, Texas

married

Sarah Gilleland, born October 17, 1821 in Texas, died May 18, 1894, Burnet County, Texas

on May 13, 1837, Washington County, Texas

Their children were:

Thomas Phineas Hall, born October, 1838, in Bastrop, Texas, died 1918

Daniel Hall, born 1842, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Mary M. Hall, born 1844, in Texas, date and place died unknown

James M. Hall, born 1846, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Samuel A. Hall, born February 14, 1848, in Texas, died February 17, 1902

William W. Hall, born 1849, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Jackson J. Hall, born 1852, Milam County, Texas, date and place died unknown

John R. Hall, born 1854, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Amanda R. Hall, born 1855, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Cullin Hall, born March 10, 1857, in Texas, died October 28, 1928

Annie Ophelia Hall, born 1859, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Mary Hall, born 1863, in Texas, date and place died unknown

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Thomas Phineas and Zelpha (Vaughan) Hall

Thomas Phineas Hall, born October, 1838, in Bastrop, Texas, died 1918

married

Zelpha Vaughan, born in 1844, place unknown, died in 1925, place unknown

c. 1867

their children were:

Sarah Alice Hall, born 1869, in Texas

Elizabeth Hall, born 1870, in Texas

Mary Virginia Hall, born 1871, in Texas

William Alexander Hall, born 1873, in Texas

John Thomas Hall, born 1875, in Texas

Bertie Davis Hall, born, 1878, in Texas

WILLIAM GILLELAND

by Patricia Gilleland Young

William Gilleland was the son of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland. He was born in Washington County, Texas, October 25, 1823. [1] He married Rachel Elizabeth Allen, daughter of Moses and Nancy (Williams) Allen, on December 3, 1851, in Milam County, Texas. Rachel was born in Jefferson County, Texas, October 3, 1837. [2] According to the obituary for Rachel, written by her son, William Allen, William and Rachel were the parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy, and one who died at the age of eight years. The other children, all of whom survived their parents, were: Thomas Franklin, William Allen, Emily Lehela (or Leah), Mary Elizabeth and Elisha Daniel.

In the 1850 census, William, age 25, is shown living with his parents in Milam County, along with John, 17, Daniel, 15, James, 12, Alexander, 6, and Felix, 4. His father, Daniel, is listed as 55 years old, having been born in Virginia. Prissilla (sic) is listed as age 47, born in Illinois. The 1860 census for Bell County shows William Gilliland (sic), age 35, stock raiser, and wife R.E., 22, Thomas, 4, William, 3, and Emily, 2. In 1870, the family was living at Circleville, Williamson County, with Thomas, 15, Emma L., 12, Mary, 8, and Elisha D., 4. In 1880, they were again in Bell County, with William Allen, 24, minister, Mary, 18, and Elisha, 13.

William served as a private in the Army of the Republic of Texas in the Somervell Campaign, under the command of Capt. Samuel Bogart. The dates of service were from October 17, 1842 to January 17, 1843. [3]

At the age of 39, William served as a private in the Civil War, enlisting at Willow Springs, in Bell County, for a period of six months. His organization is listed as Co. C., 1st Regiment, 27th Brigade, BG H.P. Hale, Commanding, TST. The date of enlistment was August 7, 1863. [4]

William and his family apparently moved to Randall County, in the Panhandle, somewhere around 1890, when that area was opened up to settlement. Son Thomas Franklin and his family, daughter Mary Elizabeth and her husband J.T. Respess, and son Elisha Daniel accompanied William to the Panhandle to enter the cattle business.

Randall County, Texas, was created in 1876. Indians - Kiowa, Cheyenne and Comanche - had previously occupied this area until they were driven out by soldiers, buffalo hunters and the westward movement of the United States. The Texas Legislature opened up Randall County for settlement in 1887, selling grassland to settlers for $1.00 per acre, land with permanent water for $3.00 per acre and timber land for $5.00 per acre. [5] Apparently, William and his family moved to Randall County in order to take advantage of the low prices to buy grassland for cattle.

William Gilleland died in Randall County, July 17, 1897, [6] and shortly thereafter, Rachel Gilleland left Randall County with her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Elizabeth and J.T. Respess, and went to Cottonwood, Texas. Rachel died there, in Cottonwood, May 9, 1902, and is buried in the old Cottonwood

Cemetery, as are Mary Elizabeth and James Taylor Respess. [7] The children of Mary Elizabeth and James Taylor Respess were: Maude, Raymond, Agnes Earl, Beulah, Hazel Irma, Grady, Ross and Walker. Mary Elizabeth and James Taylor Respess had been married in Bell County, January 9, 1883. James Taylor died in 1927, and Mary Elizabeth died in 1943.

Elisha Daniel was born August 28, 1866. He had accompanied his father to the Panhandle, but shortly after William's death, Elisha Daniel sold out in Happy, Texas, in 1900, and went by horse and buggy, to Bartlett, Texas. From there he went to Ropesville, Texas, in Hockley County, and for a time worked as a carpenter. He married Mollie Holland, November 26, 1885, in Bell County, and they were divorced in 1926. After that time, he moved to Coleman County, Texas, where he lived with cousins J.D. and Maggie Kuykendall until his death on February 5, 1933. He is buried in Cottonwood Cemetery near his mother, Rachel, sister, Mary Elizabeth, and her husband, J.T. Respess. [8] Elisha Daniel and Mollie had one son, Otto, whose descendants are not known at this time.

William Allen Gilleland was born in Milam County, Texas, May 20, 1856. His parents moved to Indian Creek, Bell County, when he was about one year of age. He spent most of his boyhood days there. He had little opportunity for education, attending school for only 26 months in his childhood. After he came of age, he attended a boarding school in Meridian, Texas, for 14 months. He joined the Methodist Church at the age of 18, and he was licensed to preach at the age of 22, at the Quarterly Conference of the Salado and Davilla Circuit in the Georgetown District. He was ordained a Deacon in 1882 and an Elder in 1885. [9]

William Allen had remained in the ministry all his adult life. He had not accompanied the others on the trek to the Panhandle, as his commitment was to the charges given him by the Methodist Church. Consequently, his family moved many times as his assignments in the Northwest Texas Conference made it necessary. William Allen married Sarah Elizabeth Boynton on December 25, 1883. [10] Children of that union were: William Boynton, Palmer Ashford, Olin Mood, Ola Jewel, Thomas Posey, Allen Mackey, Samuel Bolton and Vada Elizabeth. William Allen died in Georgetown, Texas, October 31, 1936 [11], and Sarah Elizabeth died there November 11, 1945. [12] Both are buried there.

Thomas Franklin was born February 12, 1855. He migrated with his father, William, to Randall County, Texas, in the Panhandle, when that area was opened to settlement. He married Cordelia Mitchell in Bell County, Texas, November 1, 1877.

It is recorded in the book, Windmilling: Swisher Co., Texas, 1876-1977, that Thomas Franklin gave land in 1905 for a Methodist Church to be built in Randall County, though it was also used by other denominations. The building was moved in 1909 to Swisher County and continued to be used by the Methodists.

In 1932, Thomas Franklin made a trip to Georgetown, to visit William Allen. [13] Thomas had been successful in the cattle business, having moved to Tulia, Texas, in Swisher County, around 1906. He built a two-story house there, one of the finest at that time. From 1921 to 1924, Edgar Estill Allen and family went

to Tulia to work for Thomas Franklin. Thomas and Cordelia had one child, Ora Lee. Cordelia died January 1, 1928. Ora Lee died in March, 1932, and Thomas Franklin died one year later, on March 11, 1933. [14]

Emily L. Gilleland was born April 18, 1858. She married John O. Darby on May 13, 1873. He was a farmer in the Bartlett area of Bell County. Children born to them were: Mary, Graves, Addison, Benny, Will and Frank. Three of their sons became blind, and all three of them became Baptist preachers. [15]

NOTES

1 Obituary of William Gilleland by his granddaughter, Ora Lee Gilleland
2 Obituary of Rachel W. Gilleland by her son, William Allen Gilleland
3 Texas State Archives
4 Texas State Archives
5 The Randall County Story, by Mrs. Clyde W. Warwick, sponsored by the Randall County Historical Survey Committee
6 Obituary of William Gilleland by his granddaughter, Ora Lee Gilleland
7 Reading on tombstones, verified by Pat Young, Abilene, Texas
8 Research, Estill F. Allen, Jr., graves identified
9 Methodist Archives, McMurry University, Abilene, Texas
10 Marriage Records, Brown County Courthouse
11 Methodist Archives, McMurry University, Abilene, Texas
12 Bolton Gilleland, Lockhart, Texas
13 Estill Allen, Abilene, Texas
14 Cousins by Estill Allen
15 Ibid

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William and Rachel Elizabeth (Allen) Gilleland

William Gilleland, born October 25, 1823, Cedar Creek, Washington County, Texas, died July 17, 1897, Canyon, Randall County, Texas

married

Rachel Elizabeth Allen, born October 3, 1837, Jefferson County, Texas, died May 9, 1902, Cottonwood, Callahan County, Texas

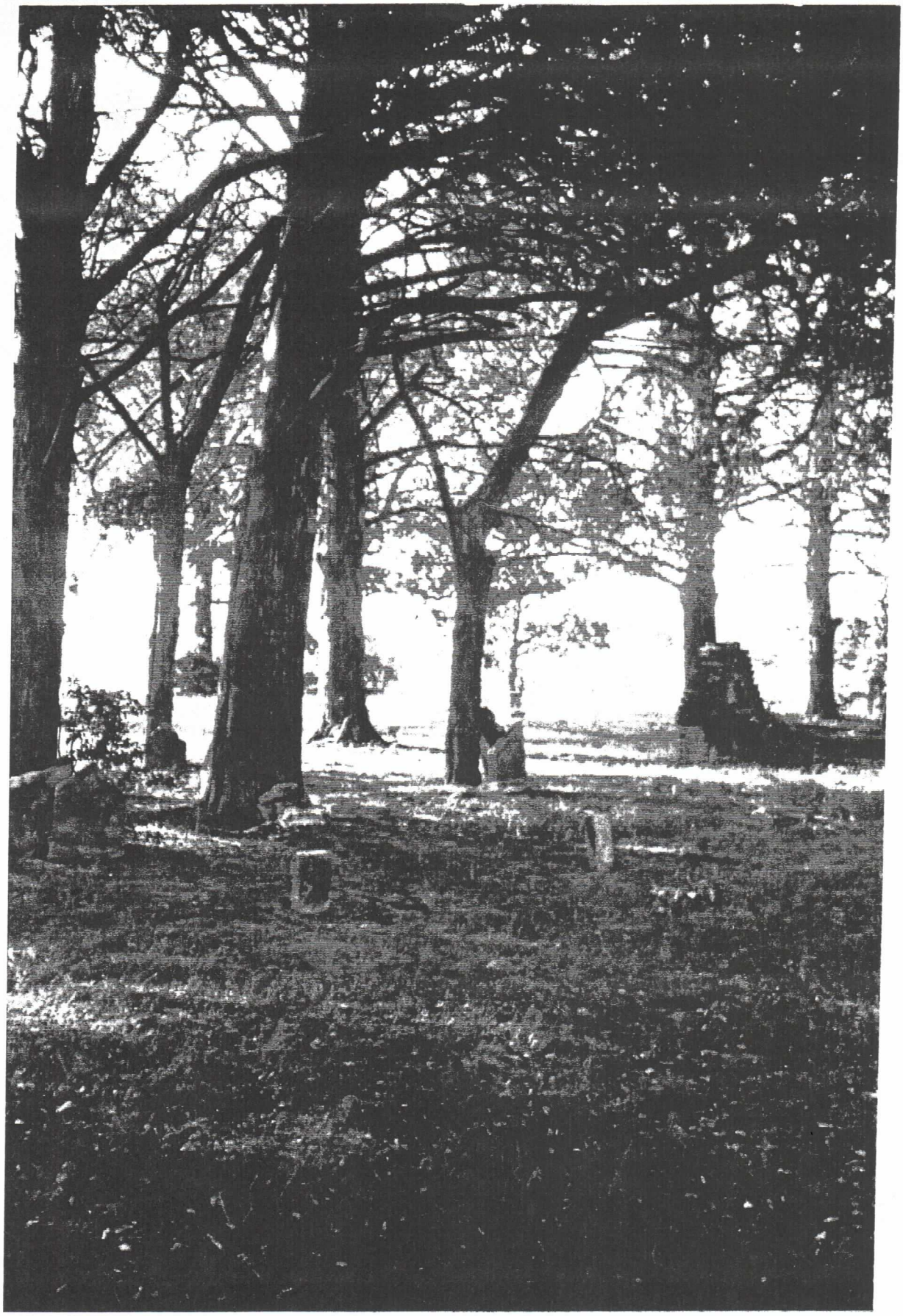
on December 3, 1851, Milam County, Texas

Their children were:

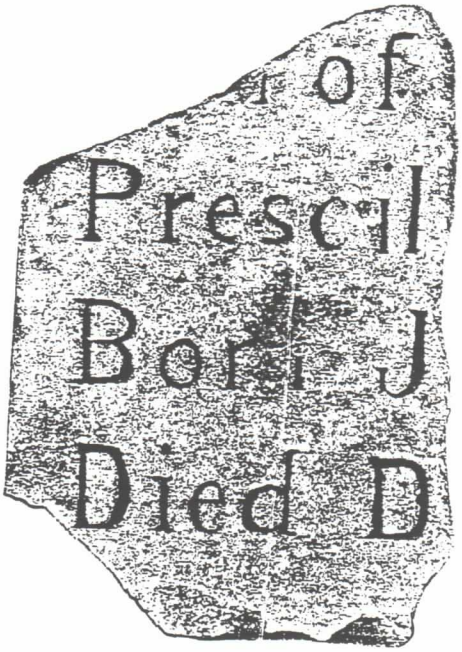
Thomas Franklin Gilleland, born February 12, 1855, in Texas, died March 11, 1933, Tulia, Swisher County, Texas

William Allen Gilleland, born May 20, 1856, Milam County, Texas, died October 31, 1936, Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

Emily Leah Gilleland, born April 18, 1858, in Texas, date and place died unknown



Anders Graves, Hamilton Chapel Cemetery, Milam County, Texas



Tombstone Fragment from
Grave of Thomas Gilleland (1825-1848)

MARY GILLELAND SLATER

by Richard Scroggins

Mary Gilleland Slater was born January 23, 1827, most likely in Miller County, Arkansas, during the time when the Gilleland and Boatwright families returned to the Red River Settlements in the late 1820's. She was the second of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland's daughters and their fifth child. [5]

While the Gillelands were living in Montgomery County, Texas, Mary married Stephen Thomas Slater on November 13, 1845. [6] Thomas and Mary Slater had four children, all born in Milam County, Texas: Eugene, born November 18, 1846; Thomas, born June 28, 1848; Mary Xantippe, born March 29, 1850; and Stephen D., born January 12, 1852. [7]

Mary Gilleland Slater died in January, 1852, no doubt from complications due to childbirth, and was buried in the Gilleland Cemetery on Gilleland Place farm. [8] Stephen T. Slater died in 1884 and was buried at Sharp, Texas. His crypt is the oldest marked grave in the Sharp Cemetery. [9]

NOTES

1 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible, Family Record Pages
2 Texas State Archives, Austin
3 Milam County Tax List, 1847
4 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible; Tombstone Fragment
5 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible; Family Record Pages
6 Ibid
7 Ibid
8 Ibid
9 Survey of Gravestone, Sharp Cemetery, Milam County, Texas

Stephen Thomas and Mary (Gilleland) Slater

Stephen Thomas Slater, born January 31, 1815, in Tennessee, died November 2, 1884, Milam County, Texas

married

Mary Gilleland, born January 23, 1827, Arkansas Territory, died January, 1852, Milam County, Texas

on November 13, 1845, Montgomery County, Texas

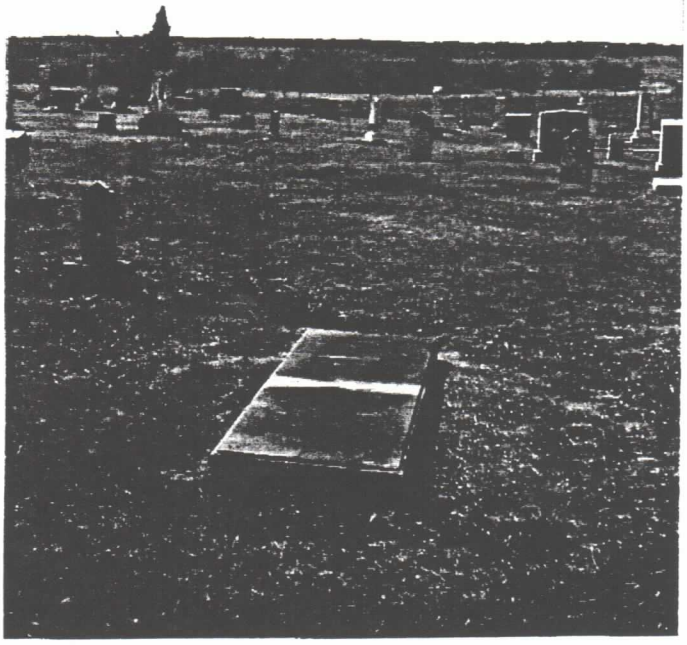
Their children were:

Eugene Slater, born November 18, 1846, Milam County, Texas, date and place died unknown

Thomas Slater, born June 28, 1848, Milam County, Texas, date and place died unknown

Mary Xantippe Slater, born March 29, 1850, Milam County, Texas, date and place died unknown

Stephen D. Slater, born January 12, 1852, Milam County, Texas, date and place died unknown



Stephen Slater Crypt, Sharp Cemetery, Milam County, Texas

NANCY GILLELAND ANDERS

by Margaret Holmes Johnson

Nancy Gilleland was born January 19, 1829 in Pope County, Arkansas, to Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland. [1] The fact that she was born in Arkansas, but the 1850 census of Milam County, Texas, states that all of Daniel's children were born in Texas, had me confused and caused me to spend many years of research on the problem. I then met Betty McKrosky, of Wharton, who told me the story of the early settlers of Texas who went back to Arkansas Territory about 1825 and tried to reclaim land that they had been driven from in 1821. [2]

While Daniel's family lived in Montgomery County, Texas, daughter Nancy met and married John Demostinie Anders. They were married January 21, 1845. John was a son of James and Martha (Formby) Anders, and he was born about 1823, in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The Anders had moved to Montgomery County, Texas in 1839.

When the Gilleland family moved to Milam County, Texas, John and Nancy Anders also moved there. When the 1850 census for Milam County was made, the John Anders family lived near Daniel's family on the San Gabriel River. Later, John and Nancy bought two hundred acres a few miles below where the town of Rockdale is today. Here they raised a family of eleven children.

John Anders served in Sibley's Brigade of the Texas Mounted Volunteers of the Confederate Army. He was seriously wounded in a battle in New Mexico, in which one of Nancy's brothers was killed. [3] John suffered from his wounds the remainder of his life.

Nancy died January 29, 1870, from complications of childbirth and was buried at Hamilton Chapel Cemetery. John was left with a month-old baby and a house full of other young children to raise. The two oldest daughters were married and had families of their own, so were of little help. John kept the family together until his youngest daughter, Sue, was married. John then gave his interest in his home to his daughter, Mary Carlyle. Mary and her husband, William Penn Carlyle, later bought Nancy's interest from her brothers and sisters. John spent the remainder of his life living with his children. He died about 1889 while living in the home of his son Jacob Bolivar, near the Davilla Community, and he was buried in the Old Caney Cemetery.

Several of John and Nancy's children died early and are buried in Hamilton Chapel Cemetery. Tradition has it that they died from kidney disease. They may have had diabetes, as this disease has been prevalent in descendants of this couple.

NOTES

[1] Daniel Gilleland Family Bible

[2] In The Story of Oklahoma by Muriel H. Wright, 1955, Guthrie, Oklahoma, the date is given as 1819 when settlers

were removed by Federal troops from a Red River Settlement that is in present-day Oklahoma, but was then thought to be a part of Arkansas Territory. In Reminiscence of T.J. Williams, [Daniel's half brother], he also gives this approximate date.

[3] Texas State Archives Records. Further research found that it was the Battle of Val Verde, in New Mexico, where Daniel Gilleland, Jr. was killed, so that must have been where John Anders was wounded.

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John Demostinie and Nancy (Gilleland) Anders

John Demostinie Anders, born c. 1823, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, died 1889, Milam County, Texas

married

Nancy Gilleland, born January 19, 1829, Pope County, Arkansas, died January 29, 1870, Milam County, Texas

on January 21, 1845, Montgomery County, Texas

Their children were:

James W. Anders, born 1846, Montgomery County, Texas, died 1874, Milam County, Texas

Stacey Precilla Anders, born 1848, Milam County, Texas, date and place died unknown

Mary Elizabeth Anders, born 1850, Milam County, Texas, died 1924, Milam County, Texas

John Cullen Anders, born July 28, 1852, Milam County, Texas, died September 29, 1865, Milam County, Texas

Louise Anders, born 1854, Milam County, Texas, date and place died unknown

Charles Harry Anders, born May 16, 1855, Milam County, Texas, died November 28, 1872, Milam County, Texas

Martha Anders, born 1858, in Texas, died 1874, place unknown

Jacob Bolivar Anders, born August 17, 1859, Milam County, Texas, died September 21, 1924, Olivia, Calhoun County, Texas

Henry Marion Anders, born 1864, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Sue Catherine Anders, born 1866, Milam County, Texas, died 1938, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

Virgil Daniel Anders, born December 25, 1869, Milam County, Texas, died September 11, 1930, Montgomery County, Texas

George and Mary Elizabeth (Anders) Rose

George Rose, birthplace and date unknown, died about 1874, place unknown

married

Mary Elizabeth (Anders) Rose, born 1850, Milam County, Texas, died 1924, Rockdale, Milam County, Texas

in 1871, place unknown

their children were:

Eugenia Rose, born 1872, place unknown

Annie Rose, born 1872, place unknown

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William Penn and Mary Elizabeth (Rose) Carlyle

William Penn Carlyle, born in 1849, in Mississippi, died 1925, Rockdale, Milam County, Texas

married

Mary Elizabeth (Anders) Rose, born 1850, Milam County, Texas, died 1924, Rockdale, Milam County, Texas

about 1875, place unknown

their children were:

William Cullen Carlyle, born August 19, 1876, Milam County, Texas

Catherine Carlyle, born December 10, 1879, Milam County, Texas

George Carlyle, born October 30, 1880, Milam County, Texas

Wallace Carlyle, born October 27, 1881, Milam County, Texas

Mary Rebecca Carlyle, born June 1, 1883, Milam County, Texas

Lou Carlyle, born April 21, 1885, Milam County, Texas

Bolivar Carlyle, born February 1, 1887, Milam County, Texas

Johnnie Carlyle, born March 25, 1889, Milam County, Texas

Green Carlyle, born November 11, 1891, Milam County, Texas

Hicks Carlyle, born July 9, 1893, Milam County, Texas

Billy Carlyle, birthplace and date unknown

Jacob Bolivar and Sarah Lutiche (Loftin) Anders

Jacob Bolivar Anders, born August 17, 1859, Milam County, Texas, died September 21, 1924, Olivia, Calhoun County, Texas

married

Sarah Lutiche Loftin, born February 4, 1863, Milam County, Texas, died March 31, 1937, Palacios, Matagorda County, Texas

on February 16, 1885, Milam County, Texas

Their children were:

Etta Aaron Anders, born December 18, 1886, in Texas

Martha Vera Anders, born September 1, 1888, Ad Hall, Milam County, Texas

William Bolivar Anders, born March 18, 1890, Ad Hall, Milam County, Texas

George Miles Harrington Anders, born March 26, 1892, Ad Hall, Milam County, Texas

Virgil Columbus Anders, born December 25, 1894, Ad Hall, Milam County, Texas

Marcus Marion Anders, born August 21, 1896, Buckholts, Milam County, Texas

Clara Frances Anders, born February 27, 1899, Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas

Anna Lou Ethel Anders, born June 15, 1901, Mason, Mason County, Texas

Charles Harry Anders, born September 5, 1904, Olivia, Calhoun County, Texas

Jacob Bolivar and Virgil Anders

(?) and Sue Anders, c. 1883

JOHN HENRY GILLELAND

by Richard Scroggins

John Henry Gilleland was born on January 16, 1831, at Moore's Fort, La Grange, Fayette County, Texas. [1] He was the seventh child and fourth son of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland and was named for John Henry Moore (1800-1880), Old Three Hundred settler and later commander of the cannon at Gonzales, with whom his parents were well acquainted. [2]

The census of 1850 shows John Gilleland, age 17, living in the home of his parents, in Milam County, Texas. [3] On October 18, 1855, John Henry married Martha Ann Sanford, daughter of Reuben and Mary 'Polly' (Wood) Sanford, lately arrived in Texas from Tennessee. Reuben Sanford died before the family left for Texas and Polly, along with her children, Richard H., Elizabeth, and Martha Ann, made the trip to Milam County in 1854. [4] Martha Ann (Sanford) Gilleland was born on February 2, 1830 in Williamson County, Tennessee. [5]

John and Martha Gilleland would live the remainder of their lives in the San Andres District, later Tracy, Milam County, Texas. Their first child, Sarah Ellen, was born in 1856. That same year, Martha Gilleland attended a Methodist camp meeting held at the San Anders (sic) campground where she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, that denomination to which the Gilleland family was so strongly associated since the late 1820's, in Arkansas and Texas. [6]

A second child, John Henry Gilleland, Jr., was born on March 13, 1858, followed by another boy, James Andrew, on March 7, 1860. [7] On the 1860 census John Henry Gilleland, Sr., is shown to be living in the San Gabriel Community with his wife Martha, daughter, Sarah Ellen, age 4, John H., Jr., age 2, and James, age 6 months. His occupation is listed as farmer. [8] Like his father, Daniel, John was involved in cotton farming and would later be successful enough at it to operate a cotton gin at Tracy, in the 1870's.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, John Henry Gilleland, along with his brothers, Daniel and James, enlisted under Captain Charles M. Lesueur, commanding officer, San Anders Light Horse Company, Milam County, 27th Brigade. This outfit set out for San Antonio, Texas, where it would come under the command of Lt. Col. William R. Scurry, 4th Texas Cavalry, Sibley's Brigade, C.S.A., mustered in on September 16, 1861. [9]

After his service under General Sibley in the ill-fated Western campaign in which his brother, Daniel, Jr., lost his life at the Battle of Val Verde, John returned to Texas in the summer of 1862. His second daughter, Mary Precilla, named for her grandmothers, had been born in Milam County on April 11, 1862. [10] After a brief visit home that summer, John Henry returned to active duty and was finally discharged from Ashford's Company in 1864. [11] Martha gave birth to a son, named Daniel Sidney, on March 21, 1864 and in 1866, followed another son, Robert Alexander Gilleland. [12] John and Martha's last child, William, was born after 1870. [13]

During the decade of the 1870's John and Martha Gilleland raised their large family of five sons and two daughters and farmed the rich San Gabriel farmland of Milam County, in the vicinity of Tracy, Texas. John was a well-respected member of the community and he and Martha were closely tied to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The 1870 census shows the family living in what was then referred to as the Davilla Community. William, the youngest son, is not listed, which indicates that he was born later. [14]

In the late 1870's the elder children of John and Martha Gilleland married and moved away from home. Sarah Ellen married G. B. McCullough in 1878 and John Henry, Jr., married Mollie Susan Rutland, on November 13, 1879. A little less than a month later, on December 10, 1879, Mary Precilla Gilleland married William Squire Rutland, Mollie Susan's brother. Both marriages were performed by the same minister, Reverend Wells. [15] In 1987, this writer, on a trip to the Milam County Courthouse, in Cameron, Texas, found both of these original marriage licenses, where they had waited to be claimed for 108 years.

John Henry Gilleland, Sr., died on January 28, 1880, age 49, at Tracy, and was buried in the community cemetery, located just off the Davilla Road. Martha's mother, Mary 'Polly' Sanford was buried there at her death in 1867, as were relatives in the Davis and Holtzclaw families. Martha (Sanford) Gilleland lived on the family farm for another twenty years, until her death on October 14, 1900. She was buried beside her husband in the community cemetery. A devout Methodist, she would attend church at the Tracy Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which structure was built in 1896. Her last words, spoken as she lay dying, were "I suffer no pain." [16]

On October 27, 1990, approximately 75 descendants of John and Martha (Sanford) Gilleland gathered at their restored tombstones to formally dedicate the cemetery where they lie buried as the "Tracy Cemetery."

NOTES

1 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
2 Research by Richard Scroggins
3 U.S. Census, 1850, Milam County, Texas
4 Obituary of Martha (Sanford) Gilleland, October, 1900
5 Ibid; Tombstone Survey, Tracy Cemetery, Milam County, Texas
6 Obituary of Martha Gilleland
7 Census and Bible Records
8 U.S. Census, 1860, Milam County, Texas
9 Texas State Archives, CSA Records, Austin, Texas
10 Census and Bible Records
11 Texas State Archives, CSA Records
12 Census and Bible Records
13 Ibid
14 U.S. Census, 1870, Milam County, Texas
15 Marriage License, Milam County, Texas, 1879
16 Obituary of Martha Gilleland

Martha (Sanford) Gilleland, c.1890

DANIEL GILLELAND, JR.

by Patricia Gilleland Young

Daniel Gilleland, Jr., son of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland, was born in Washington County, Texas, on November 11, 1835. [1] He married Emily Anne Allen, daughter of Moses and Nancy (Williams) Allen, in Milam County, Texas on July 26, 1854. [2] Children born to them were: John Cullin, Daniel, Nancy Priscella, Sarah Elizabeth, and Dewey. [3]

Daniel, Jr. served as a private in the Civil War. His organization is recorded as follows: San Anders Lt. Horse Co., Milam Co., 27th Brig., TM (later 4th Texas Cavalry, Col. Wm. R. Scurry Commanding, Sibley's Brigade, CSA). [4]

According to records from the Federal Archives, Daniel, Jr. was enrolled in the Army of the Confederate States of America on September 7, 1861, in Milam County, Texas, by Captain Charles M. Lesueur; and he was mustered into service on September 16, 1861, in San Antonio, Texas. His horse was valued at $150.00 and his equipment at $20.00.

Daniel, Jr. was killed at the Battle of Val Verde in New Mexico on February 21, 1862. [5] Company records show that Daniel died of a "gunshot wound received in the breast on the 21st day of February, 1862." They state also that "the effects of said soldier, consisting of a horse and equipage and a few articles of clothing were delivered to his brother J. Gilleland, a sergeant of Co. 'D', 4th Regt. TC by Captain C.M. Lesueur." [6]

According to several journals, among them The Civil War Journal of Pvt. William Randolph Howell [7], the Confederate casualties were buried on the site. A memorial now stands at the site of the battle near old Fort Craig, near Socorro, New Mexico.

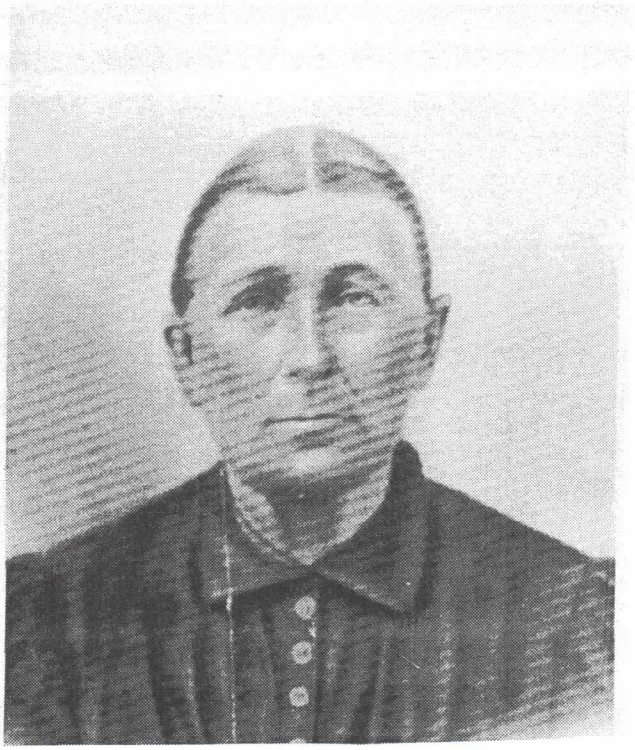
Emily Anne Gilleland later married O.C. Felton. They were married in Bell County, Texas, on December 17, 1865. [8] They moved from there to Colorado, Washington and California, before settling in Arizona. [9] In 1889, they were living in Yavapia County, Arizona, according to a deed found in Bell County, Texas. At that time, Emily and O.C. Felton signed Emily's part of the Moses Allen Headright over to her sister, Rachel (Allen) Gilleland and her husband, William Gilleland. [10]

It is reported that Emily and O.C. Felton had several children, but we have no information concerning them. One story in family tradition states that she may have been deserted by Felton, reportedly for an Indian squaw, and that she went to California to live with one of her children. We have no verification of, nor can we refute, that claim.

There is little available information on the descendants of Daniel Gilleland, Jr. except for one son, John Cullin Gilleland, who was born in Bell County, Texas, February 6, 1858. He married Laura Somelia Hazelton on November 9, 1886, in Maricopa County, Arizona. Children born to them were: John Ray, Ida Rita, Earl, Francis Marion, and Charles Hazelton. [11] John Cullin Gilleland died in Phoenix, Arizona, January 2, 1937. [12]

NOTES

1 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
2 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
3 Robert E. Gilleland, Layton, Utah
4 Texas State Archives
5 Federal Archives
6 "Moritz Maedgen Papers," Texas Collection, Moody Library, Baylor University, Waco, Texas
7 Westward the Texans, Jerry Thompson, 1990, Texas Western Press, El Paso, Texas
8 Bell County Marriage Records, Belton, Texas
9 Robert E. Gilleland, Layton, Utah
10 Bell County, Texas, Deed Records
11 Robert E. Gilleland, Layton, Utah
12 Ibid



Emily Anne (Allen) Gilleland, c. 1860

Daniel and Emily Anne (Allen) Gilleland

Daniel Gilleland, Jr., born November 11, 1835, Washington County, Texas, died February 21, 1862, Val Verde, New Mexico Territory

married

Emily Anne Allen, born February 25, 1836, Jefferson County, Texas, date and place died unknown

on July 26, 1854, Milam County, Texas.

Their children were:

John Cullin Gilleland, born February 6, 1858, Bell County, Texas, died January 2, 1937, in Phoenix, Arizona

Daniel Gilleland, born February 12, 1860, Bell County, Texas, date and place died unknown

Nancy Priscella Gilleland, birthdate and place unknown, date and place died unknown

Sarah Elizabeth Gilleland, birthdate and place unknown, date and place died unknown

Dewey Gilleland, birthdate and place unknown, date and place died unknown

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O.C. and Emily Anne Allen (Gilleland) Felton

O. C. Felton, birthdate and place unknown, date and place died unknown

married

Emily Anne (Allen) Gilleland, born February 25, 1836, Jefferson County, Texas, date and place died unknown

on December 17, 1865, Bell County, Texas
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JAMES GILLELAND

by Richard Scroggins

James Gilleland, born in Washington County, Texas on January 20, 1837, was the ninth child and sixth son of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland. [1] He is listed on the 1850 census, Milam County, age 12. [2] Ten years later, on the 1860 census, he is listed in the household of his parents, age 22, with his occupation given as laborer. [3]

When the War Between the States broke out in 1861, James, along with his brothers, John and Daniel, Jr., plus their brother-in-law, John Anders, enlisted in Captain Charles M. Lesueur's Company, 4th Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers, from Milam County and was mustered in at San Antonio, September 11, 1861, with the rank of 4th Sergeant. [4] As part of Sibley's Campaign to win the West for the Confederacy, James survived the so-called victory over Union forces at Val Verde, New Mexico, a battle which claimed the life of his brother, Daniel, Jr. He suffered the cruel retreat from New Mexico after the Confederate loss at Glorieta Pass, reaching San Antonio in the summer of 1862. After a brief furlough, he rejoined his outfit in the fall of that year, fighting as part of the Western Louisiana campaign. [5]

In the summer of 1863, James Gilleland was seriously wounded in a battle on Bayou La Fourche, near Donaldsonville, Louisiana, on June 28th and taken prisoner by Union forces. Transported to occupied New Orleans, along with other wounded Confederates, he died July 21, 1863, at St. Louis Hospital, listed as a "Rebel Prisoner of War." [6] He was buried the same day, in grave number 29, Cypress Grove Cemetery, New Orleans, Louisiana. [7]

NOTES

[1] Daniel Gilleland Family Bible, Family Record Pages
[2] United States Census, 1850, Milam County, Texas
[3] United States Census, 1860, Milam County, Texas
[4] Texas State Archives, CSA Records
[5] Ibid
[6] Federal Archives, CSA
[7] Record of Death and Interment Federal Archives

No. 1

RECORD OF DEATH AND INTERMENT.

Name and number of person interred.	James Gilleland Rebel Prisoner
Number and locality of the grave	39. Cypress Grove Cemetery No 2
Hospital number of the deceased	396
Regiment, rank, and company	1st Texas Private Comp. D
Residence before enlistment	—
Conjugal condition, (and if married, the residence of the widow)	—
Cause of death	—
Age of the deceased	—
Nativity	—
References and remarks	—
Date of death and burial	Died July 21. Buried July 21. 1863

Duplicates sent to the Adjutant General of the United States Army, and to the Sexton of the Cypress Grove Cemetery.

Death and Interment Record
James Gilleland, 1863

Bryan, Texas Jany 24 1871.

Received, *in good order and well-conditioned from* **W. G. BUNGER & CO.**, *on my wagon, the following articles, be delivered in like order and condition to* A M Gilleland *at* his Store *he paying freight at the rate of* 1.00 *per 100 pounds.*

M. Strickland & Co., Stationers, Galveston.

MARKS.	ARTICLES.	WEIGHTS.
A M Gilleland	15 Bdls Ties	
San Anders	5 Roles Bagging	
	Fall Rd Year	1840

Teamster's Postoffice .....

Receipt, 1871,
A.M. Gilleland at his store

ALEXANDER M. GILLELAND

by Richard Scroggins

Alexander M. Gilleland was born December 19, 1844, in Montgomery County, Texas, the next to youngest child of Daniel and Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland. [1] Age 6 on the 1850 census, he was 16 1/2 at the beginning of the Civil War and served in the Confederate Army from Texas. He was furloughed from Ashford's Company in 1864. [2]

Returning home to Milam County following the war, Alexander married Martha Ladonna Rogers on January 4, 1872, when he was 27 years old. [3] In 1876, three years after his parents' deaths, he sold the Gilleland Place farm to H. G. Carter. [4] Alexander and Martha were the parents of at least two children, Martha Ladonna, born December 13, 1874 and died February 20, 1880, and James L. Gilleland, born April 16, 1880 and died November 19, 1880. [5]

Alexander owned a store in the 1870's and family tradition is that he lived in a whitewashed house on the Cameron Road, described by those who lived in the area as "so white, it gleamed in the sun." He died c. 1900 and was buried in the family cemetery on Gilleland Place farm, along the San Gabriel. [6]

NOTES

1 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
2 Texas State Archives, CSA Records
3 Family Bible
4 Milam County Deed Records, Vol. 10, p. 431
5 Family Bible
6 Family Tradition (Oral History from the late Les Horton)

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Alexander M. and Martha Ladonna (Rogers) Gilleland

Alexander M. Gilleland, born December 19, 1844, Montgomery County, Texas, died c. 1900, Milam County, Texas

married

Martha Ladonna Rogers, birthdate and place unknown, date and place died unknown

on January 4, 1872, Milam County, Texas

Their children were:

Martha Ladonna Gilleland, born December 13, 1874, Milam County, Texas, died February 20, 1880, Milam County, Texas

James Gilleland, born April 16, 1880, Milam County, Texas, died November 19, 1880, Milam County, Texas
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FELIX GRUNDY GILLELAND

by Descendants of Felix G. Gilleland

Felix Grundy Gilleland was born April 20, 1846, in Montgomery County, Texas. [1] He was the thirteenth - and last - child of Daniel Gilleland and his wife, Precilla (Boatwright) Gilleland. The 1850 census of Milam County, Texas, lists Felix as four years old and living with his parents, Daniel Gilliland (sic) and Prissilla (sic), along with brothers, William, 25, John, 17, Daniel, 15, James, 12, and Alexander, 6. [2]

In April of 1861, Felix turned fifteen years of age; in June of that year, three of his older brothers joined up with Captain Lesueur's San Anders Lt. Horse Co. of Milam County and marched off to defend the Confederate States of America in the War Between the States. [3] By 1863, another brother had enlisted and was on the muster roll of Ashford's Company of Volunteers of the Confederate Army. At this writing, there is no information verifying that young Felix served in that war or was even in the military.

In Felix Grundy Gilleland's twenty-third year, he took as his bride Sarah Elizabeth Jones. The marriage ceremony took place on February 10, 1869. [4]

Sarah was born in Covington County, Alabama, on January 10, 1850. She was the oldest of two children of Matthew P. Jones and Cecelia Harrison Jones. Matthew was shot and killed in 1863 in Madisonville, Virginia, taking prisoners (AWOL Confederate soldiers) back to Richmond, Virginia. He was enlisted in the Milam County Guards, Inf. 27 Brig. [5] Cecelia, his wife, lived until the age of 73. She died on May 5, 1900, in Lilac, Texas. [6]

After their marriage, Felix and Sarah settled in Davilla, Texas, and there, on December 29, 1871, their first child was born. They named him Daniel Matthew after his paternal and maternal grandfathers. Three years later, on May 11, 1874, Sarah gave birth to Claud; again, three years later, Sarah and Felix celebrated the birth of their third son, whom they named John Felix. But in March of 1877, when John Felix was but six weeks old, Sarah and Felix buried their second born, three-year-old Claud. This sad occasion in the life of Sarah and Felix was followed by a joyous one: Sarah conceived her first daughter, Ellen Mae, who was born on October 17, 1879. Following the birth of Ellen Mae, who would be their only daughter, Sarah and Felix had two more sons: W. James (Jake) was born in 1884 and Thomas Wilson was born in 1887. One of their grandchildren, a lady well into her eighties, remembers that Felix and Sarah owned a grocery store in Davilla and ran it for a number of years. [7]

Sarah and Felix were still living in the Central Texas community of Davilla when their last child, Thomas Wilson, was born in 1887. However, at some point in time, they moved to East Texas, to the small town of Tyler, where Felix farmed until his death on January 13, 1918, at the age of 72. [8] Had Felix lived less than a month longer, he and Sarah would have celebrated fifty years of marriage. Sarah lived on another decade, but at the age of 79 years, she joined her husband in death. On January 17, 1929, Sarah Elizabeth (Jones) Gilleland was buried beside Felix Grundy Gilleland in Kendrick Cemetery in Tyler, Texas. [9]

Like his father before him, Daniel Matthew, firstborn son of Felix Grundy, took himself a bride at the age of 23. Young Dan, as he was called, farmed the rich blacklands of Central Texas just outside the small farming community of Davilla, the site of his birth. He had known pretty Anna Catherine Potter all his life. Her family had settled in Davilla sometime during the early 1870's and like his own family, made a good living from farming. Anna Catherine came from a family of ten children, five older girls, five younger boys. She was fourth in the order of birth and was named after her paternal grandmother, Annie Catherine Server. Annie Catherine Server and H. Joseph Potter had one son, Thomas Jefferson Potter. He was from Arkansas, near Little Rock, and had fiery red hair. [10] He came to Texas and married Nancy Jane Knight, his second wife, who was born in Liberty County, Texas.

On December 24, 1893, Anna Catherine became the bride of Dan Gilleland. [11] Dan and Anna Catherine gave life to ten children; five daughters and five sons, just as her parents did. The first, Thomas Felix, was born on February 5, 1895, a little more than a year after their marriage, and the rest followed every two to three years. John Wallace was born in 1897; Claude William in 1899; Annie Mae in 1902; Winnie Maud in 1904; Naomi Pearl in 1907; Daniel Charles in 1910; Riley Charles in 1913; Ruby Nell in 1915; and Frieda Opal in 1918. All were born in Davilla, Texas. Three of the ten had fiery red hair like their maternal grandfather, Joseph Potter.

At the age of 78, after fifty-five years of marriage to Anna Catherine, Daniel Matthew Gilleland, known to scores of grandchildren and great-grandchildren as "Poppa," succumbed to pneumonia on September 15, 1949. On July 21, 1958, at the age of 83, Anna Catherine (Potter) Gilleland was buried alongside Dan Gilleland in the Davilla Cemetery.

Four of Dan and Anna Catherine's offspring are living. Claude William Gilleland is 92 years of age; Annie Mae is 89; Naomi Pearl is 84, and Frieda Opal is 73.

NOTES

1 Daniel Gilleland Family Bible
2 1850 Milam County, Texas, Census; Page 1365, #450
3 Holdings of the Texas State Archives
4 Gilleland Family Bible in possession of Mrs. Frieda Gilleland Anderson, granddaughter of Felix Grundy and Sarah Elizabeth Gilleland
5 Texas State Archives, Muster Roll of Confederate Soldiers
6 Gilleland Family Bible in possession of Mrs. Frieda (Gilleland) Anderson
7 Naomi (Gilleland) Bell
8 Certificate of Death, State of Texas
9 Certificate of Death, State of Texas
10 From his granddaughter, Naomi Pearl (Gilleland) Bell
11 Certificate of Marriage, State of Texas, Milam County, Volume 6, Page 273

James and Dianna (Moore) Gilleland

James Gilleland, born September 8, 1798 in Tennessee, died February 27, 1839, Travis County, Texas

married

Dianna Moore, born November 28, 1805, died July 13, 1895, Waco, McLennan County, Texas

on October 16, 1821, Arkansas Territory

Their children were:

Rebecca Ann Gilleland, born August 16, 1822, Red River County, Texas, died December 30, 1843, Travis County, Texas

Nancy Dianna Gilleland, born November 17, 1824, in Texas, died January 1859, Williamson County, Texas

Nathaniel Moore Gilleland, born December 5, 1828, Hempstead County, Arkansas, died 1857, Cherokee County, Texas

Sarah Elizabeth Gilleland, born c. 1835, in Texas, date and place died unknown

Dianna Melissa Gilleland, born c. 1837, in Texas, date and place died unknown

James Emeline Gilleland, born c. 1839, in Texas, date and place died unknown

James Gilleland Cemetery, Hunter's Bend, Travis County, Texas

Descendancy Chart

1 ~ William Gilleland (1770)
sp - Nancy Johnson (1773)
2 - Robert Gilleland (1793)
2 - Daniel Gilleland (1795)
sp - Precilla Boatwright (1803)
3 -- Lewis Gilleland (1820)
3 -- Sarah Gilleland (1821)
sp - William Gladden Hall (1808)
4 -- Thomas Phineas Hall (1838)
sp - Zelpha Vaughan
5 -- Sarah Alice Hall (1869)
5 -- Elizabeth Hall (1870)
5 -- Mary Virginia Hall (1871)
5 -- William Alexander Hall (1873)
5 -- John Thomas Hall (1875)
5 -- Bertie Davis Hall (1878)
4 -- Daniel Hall (1842)
4 -- Mary M. Hall (1844)
4 -- James M. Hall (1846)
4 -- Samuel A. Hall (1848)
4 -- William W. Hall (1849)
4 -- Jackson J. Hall (1852)
4 -- John R. Hall (1854)
4 -- Amanda R. Hall (1855)
4 -- Cullin Hall (1857)
4 -- Annie Ophelia Hall (1859)
4 -- Mary Hall (1863)
3 -- William Gilleland (1823)
sp - Rachel Elizabeth Allen (1837)
4 -- Thomas Franklin Gilleland (1855)
sp - Cordelia Mitchell (1858)
5 -- Ora Lee Gilleland
4 -- William Allen Gilleland (1856)
sp - Sarah Elizabeth Boynton (1859)
5 -- William Boynton Gilleland (1884)
5 -- Palmer Ashford Gilleland (1885)
5 -- Olin Mood Gilleland (1888)
5 -- Ola Jewel Gilleland (1889)
5 -- Thomas Posey Gilleland (1892)
5 -- Allen Mackey Gilleland (1894)
5 -- Samuel Bolton Gilleland (1896)
5 -- Vada Elizabeth Gilleland (1899)
4 -- Emily Leah Gilleland (1858)
sp - John D. Darby
5 -- Addison Miles Darby (1880)
5 -- Will T. Darby (1882)
5 -- Mary Priscilla Darby (1884)
5 -- Ruby Darby (1886)
5 -- J. P. Graves Darby (1889)
5 -- O. Bennett Darby (1896)
5 -- Frank Darby (N.D.)

4 -- Sarah Jane Gilleland (1860)
4 -- Mary Elizabeth Gilleland (1862)
sp - James Taylor Respess (1846)
5 -- Maude Ophelia Respess (1883)
5 -- Raymond R. Respess (1885)
5 -- Agnes Earl Respess (1887)
5 -- Beulah Blanche Respess (1889)
5 -- Hazel Irma Respess (1890)
5 -- Grady Respess
5 -- Sul Ross Respess (1895)
5 -- Ford Walker Respess (1897)
4 -- Elisha Daniel Gilleland (1866)
sp - Mollie Holland
5 -- Otto Gilleland
3 -- Thomas Gilleland (1825)
3 -- Mary Gilleland (1827)
sp - Stephen Thomas Slater (1815)
4 -- Eugene Slater (1846)
4 -- Thomas Slater (1848)
4 -- Mary Xantippe Slater (1850)
4 -- Stephen D. Slater (1852)
3 -- Nancy Gilleland (1829)
sp - John Demostinie Anders (1823)
4 -- James W. Anders (1846)
4 -- Stacey Precilla Anders (1848)
4 -- Mary Elizabeth Anders (1850)
sp - George Rose
5 -- Eugenia Rose (1872)
5 -- Annie Rose (1872)
sp (2) - William Penn Carlyle
5 -- William Cullen Carlyle (1876)
5 -- Catherine Carlyle (1879)
5 -- George Carlyle (1880)
5 -- Wallace Carlyle (1881)
5 -- Mary Rebecca Carlyle (1883)
5 -- Lou Carlyle (1885)
5 -- Bolivar Carlyle (1887)
5 -- Johnnie Carlyle (1889)
5 -- Green Carlyle (1891)
5 -- Hicks Carlyle (1893)
5 -- Billy Carlyle (c. 1895)
4 -- John Cullen Anders (1852)
4 -- Louise Anders (1854)
4 -- Charles Harry Anders (1856)
4 -- Martha Anders (1858)
4 -- Jacob Bolivar Anders (1859)
sp - Sarah Lutiche Loftin (1863)
5 -- Etta Aaron Anders (1886)
5 -- Mattie Vera Anders (1888)
5 -- William Bolivar Anders (1890)
5 -- George Miles Harrington Anders (1892)
5 -- Virgil Columbus Anders (1894)
5 -- Marcus Marion Anders (1896)
5 -- Clara Frances Anders (1899)
5 -- Annie Lou Ethel Anders (1901)
5 -- Charles Henry Anders (1904)

4 -- Henry M. Anders (1864)
4 -- Sue Catherine Anders (1866)
4 -- Virgil Daniel Anders (1870)
3 -- John Henry Gilleland (1831)
sp - Martha Ann Sanford (1830)
4 -- Sarah Gilleland (1856)
4 -- John Henry Gilleland, Jr. (1858)
sp - Mollie Susan Rutland (1860)
5 -- Minnie Lee Gilleland (1881)
5 -- Lenice Leslie Gilleland (1883)
5 -- Effie Earl Gilleland (1887)
5 -- Horton Blake Gilleland (1889)
5 -- Forrest Gilleland (1893)
5 -- Gussie Myrtle Gilleland (1898)
4 -- James Andrew Gilleland (1860)
sp - Florence Homes Jackson (1860)
5 -- Ethel Gilleland (1881)
5 -- Inez Gilleland (1883)
5 -- Ernest Gilleland (1890)
5 -- Johnnie Lena Gilleland (1894)
5 -- Brooks Gilleland (1900)
4 -- Mary Precilla Gilleland (1862)
sp - William Squire Rutland (1849)
5 -- Eva Rutland (1880)
5 -- Maude Rutland (1883)
5 -- Martha Amanda Rutland (1885)
5 -- Ross Rutland (1887)
5 -- Blake Rutland (1890)
5 -- Ruth Rutland (1892)
5 -- Katherine Elsie Rutland (1895)
5 -- William Cullen Rutland (1896)
5 -- Chubbie Hamilton Rutland (1900)
4 -- Daniel Sidney Gilleland (1864)
sp - Anna Hartsfield (1867)
5 -- Roger Gilleland (1889)
5 -- Myra Gilleland (1892)
5 -- Rena Gilleland (1894)
4 -- Robert Alexander Gilleland (1866)
4 -- William F. Gilleland (after 1870)
3 -- Amy Gilleland (1834)
3 -- Daniel Gilleland, Jr. (1835)
sp - Emily Anne Allen (1836)
4 -- John Cullin Gilleland (1858)
sp - Laura Somelia Hazelton (1866)
5 -- John Ray Gilleland (1887)
5 -- Ida Rita Gilleland (1889)
5 -- Earl Gilleland
5 -- Francis M. Gilleland (1898)
5 -- Charles Hazelton Gilleland (1900)
4 -- Daniel Gilleland
4 -- Nancy Priscella Gilleland
4 -- Sarah Elizabeth Gilleland
4 -- Dewey Gilleland
3 -- James Gilleland (1837)
3 -- Felix Gilleland (1841)
3 -- Alexander M. Gilleland (1844)
sp - Martha Ladonna Rogers

4 -- Martha Ladonna Gilleland (1874)
4 -- James Gilleland (1880)
3 -- Felix Grundy Gilleland (1846)
sp - Sarah Elizabeth Jones (1850)
4 -- Daniel Matthew Gilleland (1871)
sp - Anna Catherine Potter (1875)
5 -- Thomas Felix Gilleland (1895)
5 -- John Wallace Gilleland (1897)
5 -- Claud William Gilleland (1899)
5 -- Annie Mae Gilleland (1902)
5 -- Winnie Maude Gilleland (1904)
5 -- Naomi Pearl Gilleland (1907)
5 -- Daniel Charles Gilleland (1910)
5 -- Riley Clifton Gilleland (1913)
5 -- Ruby Nell Gilleland (1915)
5 -- Frieda Opal Gilleland (1918)
4 -- Claude William Gilleland (1874)
4 -- John Felix Gilleland (1877)
sp - May Emma Dunn
5 -- Vera Gilleland (1900)
5 -- Grace Gilleland (1901)
5 -- Gus Elmer Gilleland (c. 1903)
5 -- John William Gilleland (c. 1906)
5 -- Florine Gilleland (1908)
5 -- Estelle Gilleland (1911)
5 -- Leonard Felix Gilleland (1913)
4 -- Ellen Mae Gilleland (1879)
4 -- W. James Gilleland (1884)
4 -- Thomas Wilson Gilleland (1887)

2 -- Sarah Gilleland (1797)
sp - Robert H. Kuykendall (1790)
3 -- Robert Gilleland Kuykendall (1816)
3 -- Mary Kuykendall (1818)
3 -- Jane Kuykendall (1820)
3 -- Joseph Felix T. Kuykendall (1822)
3 -- Albert Benjamin Kuykendall (1829)
3 -- Thomas Kuykendall (1829)
sp - Peter Kensie (c. 1800)
3 -- Sarah Ann Kensie (c. 1834)

2-- James Gilleland (1798)
sp - Dianna Moore (1805)
3 -- Rebecca Ann Gilleland (1822)
3 -- Nancy Dianna Gilleland (1824)
3 -- Nathaniel Moore Gilleland (1828)
3 -- Sarah Elizabeth Gilleland (1835)
3 -- Dianna Melissa Gilleland (1837)
3 -- James Emeline Gilleland (1839)

The Vine

A very long time ago, a little seedling sprang up, pushing aside the soil and reaching up toward the warmth of the Texas sun. Upon its emergence into the sunlight, it found itself in a quiet, peaceful area where a row of stately, sculptured stones broke the plainness of the spot and where a nearby young tree spread its branches. Birds chirping in the tree and the wind rustling its leaves sounded Nature's first song of spring that year as the new plant began the search for its destiny.

The little seedling stretched itself, reaching out to the largest stone, preparing to lean against it for support while it climbed ever upward toward the sun.

In time, nourished by the fertile Texas soil and refreshed by the gentle rains, the little seedling became a sturdy vine, wrapping itself around the stone, winding around it, encircling it and tying it to the tree.

Unaware of the importance of its mission, the vine preserved a part of history, written in stone, as it protected from destruction the large, double tombstone of Daniel and Precilla Gilleland. While the other stones in this family cemetery were crushed underfoot of cattle and careless custodians of family history, this one remains. Thanks to this vine's embrace - no accident, I believe - we have preserved for us the dates and final resting place of our first Texas ancestors.

Though the vine was lately removed, whether by malice or for reasons not understood by this descendant, it deserves to be remembered for the part it played in preserving our history. The stone has been reset; and though the vine is gone, its significance remains.

The restored cemetery and the heart-shaped stone now stand as a reminder of the long and loving relationship of this pioneer couple and the determination of their descendants to honor their memory.

Patricia Gilleland Young
June 13, 1990

Texas Heritage

Hooray for the pioneer spirit
of Precilla and Daniel and friends!
Hooray for the dream that they followed
Down the path where the river bends!

They followed their course past the hardships
to their new land of promise - the West!
They braved the frontier with a vision
that opened the way for the rest.

We are proud of the heritage they gave us
and the Texas they left behind.
May the Gilleland name and their memory
Live on in our hearts and minds!

Patricia Gilleland Young

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